

2-1-2009

Illinois State Magazine, February 2009 Issue

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Illinois State

alumni magazine



Campus memories are forever mixed with romance for Redbird couples who married.



The First Word

February is a milestone

month at Illinois State, as the campus community comes together to celebrate the University's establishment in 1857.

Founders Day is an annual tradition that invokes reflection on the various stages of the institution's development, from a Normal school with one proud building to the high-tech campus we appreciate today.

The transformation is nothing short of amazing, and is often conveyed in statistical terms. Illinois State has grown from a first class of 43 students to today's enrollment of 20,450. Faculty and staff ranks have increased simultaneously from a few individuals 150 years ago to more than 3,000.

The curriculum has expanded from a singular focus on preparing teachers to now providing students options across six colleges. There are 67 undergraduate programs in more than 188 fields of study, as well as 39 master's, two specialist, and eight doctoral programs at the graduate level.

The numbers are impressive, but what I find even more fascinating are the personal memories that surface as graduates from past eras share their collegiate experiences. Who better to narrate such a nostalgic journey than alumni who met at Illinois State and later married?

In this issue you will meet a couple from every decade since the 1930s. Their dating days capture how the campus culture has evolved from the Depression to the current day. These graduates remember a time when women had a curfew, and couples who studied together faced disdain. Two straws and a nickel coke, conversation on a cold Quad bench, hayrides, Homecoming parades, and Big Band dances became their moments to remember.

Each couple's unique story gives a glimpse of how campus life has changed at Illinois State, revealing the essence of your alma mater over time. But there is a common thread as well.

These alumni united through romance all express Redbird pride as they recall simple pleasures tied to treasured times at this very special place. Their anecdotal details truly bring the University's rich history to life. I can think of no better way to celebrate Illinois State's anniversary than through their eyes.

Al Bowman
President, Illinois State University

Illinois State

alumni magazine

Volume 9, Number 3, Winter 2008–2009

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Illinois State (USPS 019606) is published quarterly for members of the Illinois State University Alumni Association at Bone Student Center 146, 100 North University Street, Normal, Illinois 61790-3100. Periodicals postage paid at Normal, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices.

Magazine editorial offices are located at 1101 North Main Street, Normal, Illinois 61790-3100; telephone (309) 438-2586; facsimile (309) 438-8057; e-mail alumni@IllinoisState.edu; Web site www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Illinois State*, Illinois State University, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Voluntary subscriptions of \$25 per year to help defray the mounting expenses associated with publishing *Illinois State* are greatly appreciated. Checks payable to the Illinois State Foundation can be sent to Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Call Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 with any questions.

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Bonded as 'Birds

Individuals from across the decades have found their soul mate while enrolled at the University. For some romance started simply with a 20-cent sandwich, a dorm light shining during winter break, construction of a homecoming float, or a midnight study break. **Cover:** A chance encounter at a roller-skating party in 1935 was the start of a wonderful relationship for Verda (Stahly) '38 and Robert Maurer '37, who married in 1940. Their portraits from ISNU days, *inset*, were taken for the *Index*.

Contents

2 UNIVERSITY NEWS

13 TWO GREEN THUMBS

Don Schmidt, M.S. '88, stopped studying architecture when he realized a passion for plants. His graduate work led him to his role as the Department of Biological Sciences horticulturalist. Now an icon on campus, Schmidt's enthusiasm for all things growing is reflected in his teaching, during public tree walks, and as WGLT's Dean of Green.

16 PATH TO THE PRESIDENCY

While Americans watched Barack Obama's campaign sweep the nation last year, Zach Koutsky '06 and Michael Halle '06 were working for the future president. Hired staff members on board from the early primaries, both alums spent last fall getting out the vote in North Carolina. Their experiences in the historic election are moments neither will ever forget.

20 ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Jean Borg '50 was grateful for the opportunity to study at Illinois State. A scholarship allowed her to complete the training she needed to teach. Now retired from a career as an esteemed educator, Borg has shown appreciation for her family and her university by extending a helping hand to undergraduates at her alma mater.

24 ALUMNI SERVICES

26 ALUMNI CALENDAR

28 CLASS NOTES



UniversityNews

Students have the opportunity to gain international consulting experience while still in college.

Global educational opportunities are growing for students through the College of Business (COB) and College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) Export Project, which aids U.S. companies eager to expand internationally.

The Export Project pairs interdisciplinary students and faculty with U.S. companies. Since its start in 2005, team members have helped businesses develop market entry strategies in New Zealand, Germany, and Argentina.

Illinois water treatment expert Carus Corporation was a client last year. The company sought assistance in examining uses for its products in Argentina. Students investigated the industry, logistics, legal, tax, trade policy, competitor, and final user issues. They spent three weeks in Buenos Aires and surrounding areas.

Premium sunwear manufacturer Maui Jim based in Peoria was another 2008 client. A student consulting team developed a market entry model applicable to all markets Maui Jim plans to enter. Argentina was used as a case study.

In Buenos Aires team members met with real estate agents to discuss distribution center location options, a law firm for incorporation questions, temp agencies to explore staffing considerations, a customs broker to learn about potential import challenges, and trade associations to collect market size information. The team blanketed upscale optical shops to evaluate the competition.

Participating students built skill sets under challenging conditions. As COB Assistant Professor Peter Kaufman notes, "How many students have the opportunity to claim international consulting experience on their resumes while still in college?!"

Kaufman and Iris Varner are the principal directors of the two-year, \$165,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. They are supported by Mark Hoelscher, Klaus Schmidt, and Aslihan Spaulding.

The current grant along with matching college funds allows Illinois State to reach out and develop relationships with companies, which enhances the University's reputation. New grant proposals are being written by the faculty team to support the program into the future.

This academic year Export Project teams will be in China, India, and possibly Poland. Twelve undergraduate and graduate students will work with five faculty project managers. Companies participating include SunOpta of Minnesota, and Illinois firms Dickey-John, Filtration Group, Brandt Consolidated, and National Enrichment Industries.

Companies interested in learning more about the program and how to participate should e-mail Varner at izvarner@ilstu.edu or Kaufman at pkaufma@ilstu.edu. They are also the contact for individuals interested in providing scholarships needed to support students as they travel abroad.



Members of Illinois State's Export Project graduate with an advantage.

GROUND BROKEN AT SITE FOR HEALTH, FITNESS CENTER

A groundbreaking ceremony held during Homecoming marked the official start of the Student Fitness and Kinesiology/Recreation Building project. The 170,000-square-foot center will stand at the former site of Dunn-Barton and Walker residence halls.



The building is the largest capital project in the University's history, and is expected to be completed in 2010 at a cost of approximately \$50 million. It will become the campus Recreation Center and home to the School of Kinesiology, with more than 20,000 square feet dedicated to classroom and laboratory space. A walkway will connect the building to McCormick Hall on the Quad.

"The form and function of this building will draw students to ISU," President Al Bowman said. "It is truly a marriage of academic excellence and physical wellbeing."

MENNONITE CAPTURES NATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION AWARD

Mennonite College of Nursing has received the Outstanding School of Nursing Communications Award in recognition of its effective Web site and print communications. The award is presented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing and New York University.

The communications honor recognizes Mennonite's effective use of Web and print-based communications to convey the college's commitment to high-quality nursing care for vulnerable

and underserved older adults. It was presented as part of the 2008 Awards for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing Education.

"This is an award that will bring continued national exposure to the college and university," said Sara Campbell, Mennonite College of Nursing interim dean. "It is the collaboration of many that resulted in Mennonite receiving this award. Numerous people in the college, as well as University Marketing and Communications and Institutional Web Support Services, contributed to this honor."

Mennonite's Web site highlights two new initiatives specifically focused on preparing nurses at the graduate level to practice and conduct research with older adults.

Printed materials reflect a positive view of aging, and the importance of providing high-quality geriatric nursing care. Annual reports highlight important initiatives that involve nursing care of aging adults.

The Teaching Nursing Home Project, funded by the Illinois Department of Health, is designed to transform long-term care throughout Illinois by encouraging students to choose careers in those facilities.

ILLINOIS STATE RETAINS NATIONAL RANKING FOR BEST VALUE

For the fifth straight time Illinois State has ranked as one of the 100 best values in public colleges in the country, according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. The December issue ranked the University 94th on the list, up six spots from last year.

Kiplinger's list focuses on schools that offer a "combination of outstanding academic quality and an affordable price tag." The magazine places greater overall weight on quality, which accounts for about two-thirds of the final score, than on cost.

The University of Illinois was the only other state university to make the list. Other institutions from across the country include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of California, and University of Arizona.

"It is a testament to the quality of our students, faculty, and staff, and our academic and support programs that Illinois State has made the *Kiplinger* list for five straight editions," said President Al Bowman.

"The fact that it has happened in the midst of a state economy that has cost the University tens of millions of dollars makes the ranking even more remarkable," Bowman said. "To be in the company of some of the finest public institutions in the nation is one more indicator that we are achieving our goals through the University's strategic plan, *Educating Illinois*."

PRESIDENT BOWMAN CHOSEN TO SERVE ON NATIONAL CABINET

Illinois State University President Al Bowman is the only Illinois education leader to be named a member of the nation's first Higher Education Cabinet, which was created by *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The cabinet is comprised of presidents, trustees, and leaders from 76 universities and related associations. Members will work to identify trends and direct discussions about the most pressing issues facing higher education today.

"It is an honor to be selected as part of this cabinet," said Bowman, who will join leaders from institutions such as University of Notre Dame, Syracuse University, and George Washington University. Members represent public and private colleges of varying size, and represent institutions from around the nation.

"This group, supported by the power and credibility of *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, will be an important, fresh voice for higher education across the country," Bowman said.

ADMINISTRATORS ADVISE ON CURRICULA ENRICHMENT

Two Illinois State administrators spoke last fall to a special U.S. Senate caucus in Washington, D.C., about ways to enhance the teaching of STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in secondary schools.

Rodney Custer, associate vice president for research, graduate, and international studies; and Jenny Daugherty, managing director of the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (CeMaST), spoke to members of the Senate STEM Caucus about effective ways to introduce more engineering-related concepts into secondary school STEM curricula.

Custer and Daugherty discussed the implementation of professional development opportunities for in-service STEM discipline teachers, with an emphasis on technology and engineering components. That emphasis is particularly

important because the engineering profession is concerned about recruiting highly talented students into engineering programs. At the same time, mathematics and science educators are looking for authentic, real world contexts for their teaching content.

A past chair of Illinois State's Department of Technology, Custer is a nationally recognized authority on technology teacher education and STEM discipline curriculum development. As CeMaST managing director, Daugherty supports a number of STEM discipline teacher education and professional development partnership projects between Illinois State and school districts across Illinois.

NATIONAL GRANT BOLSTERS CHICAGO TEACHER PLACEMENT EFFORT

Illinois State will place more new math and science teachers in Chicago Public Schools as a result of a four-year, \$750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program.

The grant provides stipends and scholarships for 40 pre-service teacher education students in mathematics, biological sciences, and chemistry. Participants will commit to teach for at least two years in Chicago upon completing their teacher certification.

Awardees will receive at least \$10,000 per year, and have their tuition and fees waived by Illinois State. The University is also adding a \$5,000 stipend for students who are changing their careers to become teachers, and hold a bachelor's degrees. The awards will cover the last two years of pre-service teacher education at Illinois State.

The program fills a need the Chicago school district has identified in its teacher recruitment efforts. It will "provide pre-service teachers with the financial resources to finish their education at Illinois State and then bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to urban classrooms," said Illinois State President Al Bowman. He noted the program is "a true benefit to both our teacher education students, and to the students in Chicago Public Schools."

DEAN POSITION ANNOUNCED FOR TWO COLLEGES

James E. Major has been named dean of the College of Fine Arts (CFA), with Jeff Wood chosen as College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) dean.

Major served as the CFA dean on an interim basis since May of 2007. He joined the faculty in 1995 as director of choral activities, and became director of the School of Music in January of 2000. He was conductor of the Madrigal Singers and artistic director of the Madrigal Dinners at Illinois State for 11 years.

A native of Meredosia, Major received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Before coming to Illinois

Garden project at Ewing Manor takes national honor

The University's Facilities Management Grounds Department has won the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) Green Star Honor Award for the Genevieve Green Gardens at Ewing Manor. This is the 11th national award for the campus, and the second award for the Genevieve Green Gardens.

"The award is the ultimate compliment from our peers in the green industry," Assistant Director of Grounds Operations Darcy Loy said. "It recognizes the quality standards that Illinois State's Grounds Department sets, not only for the gardens but for the entire campus."

The majority of PGMS members are institutional grounds managers who work for organizations such as universities, municipalities, and parks. Past Winners of the PGMS Green Star Awards include the George Bush Presidential Library Complex, Grand Ole Opry, Longaberger Corporate Headquarters, and Sea World in Orlando, Florida.

Completed in the spring of 2008, the Genevieve Green Gardens also received the City of Bloomington's Beautification Award.



The Genevieve Green Gardens at Ewing Manor were made possible through a \$5.9 million trust from the estate of Bruce V. Green. He established the fund to develop gardens in memory of his wife, Genevieve (Carlock), who died in 1995.



James E. Major



Jeff Wood

State he served on the Ohio State University Music faculty for 21 years, including nine years as chair of the Division of Music Education.

Wood served CAST as interim dean since September of 2006. He has been on the Department of Agriculture faculty since 1985, and was associate dean for nearly four years before being named to the interim position.

A native of Collinsville, he completed his doctoral and master's degrees at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and a bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University. He has received numerous awards, including the Honorary American Degree of the National FFA Organization. The award is the FFA's highest honorary degree, and recognizes Wood's record of exceptional service to agriculture and agriculture education.

Alumni

REUNIONS SET FOR CLASS OF 1959 AND HALF CENTURY CLUB

Members of the Class of 1959 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on May 14th and 15th during the annual Half Century Club spring event. They will be inducted into the Half Century Club at dinner on Thursday, and join the Half Century Club for a full day of activities on Friday.

The Half Century Club honors all alumni whose classes graduated 50 or more years ago. There are no dues to belong. The annual spring program gives

alumni an opportunity to catch up with classmates, make new acquaintances, and learn what's new at Illinois State.

Members of the classes of 1954, 1949, 1945, 1939, and 1934 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 70th, and 75th reunions from Illinois State Normal University will be honored at a Friday luncheon. Attendees will receive a special recognition gift.

For additional information contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or e-mail Special Events Coordinator Kim Chickering at krchick@ilstu.edu.

ANNUAL ALUMNI SURVEY BEGINS AGAIN THIS SPRING

Members of the graduating classes of 2008 and 2004 will be receiving a letter in April from Illinois State President Al Bowman as an invitation to participate in the Annual Alumni Survey. Personalized instructions will be included in the mailing.

Information provided through the online survey will be used to improve the educational experience at Illinois State. Contact the University Assessment Office at (309) 438-7021 for additional information, or send an e-mail to mbfulle@IllinoisState.edu.

TUITION WAIVER AVAILABLE FOR LEGACY STUDENTS

The University's Alumni Association offers an opportunity for dependent children of Illinois State graduates who live outside Illinois to attend the University at in-state tuition rates. The 2008-2009 recipient of the waiver was Carrie Schrader, daughter of Brian '78 and Debra '78 (Flittner) Schrader of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

A limited number of nonresident legacy student tuition waivers will be awarded for the 2009-2010 academic year. Application is required by March 2. Students new to Illinois State in the fall of 2009 as either a freshman or transfer student are eligible. Recipients must plan to enroll as a full-time student, meet admission requirements, apply to the University by the established admis-

sion deadline, be a dependent child of a graduate of Illinois State who is an active member of the Alumni Association, and live outside of Illinois.

Go online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/about_us/scholarships for more information, or contact Alumni Relations Executive Director Stephanie Epp, Ed.D. '07, at saep@IllinoisState.edu.

Development

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATED TO BENEFIT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS

Two new scholarships for students in Illinois State's College of Business have been made possible through the Flessner Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. The fund was established by Paul Flessner, a 1981 graduate of Illinois State's business information systems program. He is a retired Microsoft senior vice president.

The Flessner Family Endowed Scholarship Fund supports the annual Donald J. Flessner Endowed Scholarship, awarded to a new freshman majoring in accountancy. The scholarship is named for Paul Flessner's father, Donald, a businessman and long-time mayor of Roberts.

The Fund also supports the annual Dr. Gerry McKean Endowed Scholarship, awarded to a junior or senior majoring in business information systems. The scholarship honors one of Paul Flessner's former professors, Gerry McKean, a retired business information systems faculty member.

Paul Flessner, a member of Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame, was instrumental in leading Microsoft's efforts in the development of software for servers. He received Microsoft's 2008 Technical Recognition Award for his leadership of the SQL Server 7.0 Team.

The \$100,000 in funding for the scholarship endowment was contributed by Microsoft on behalf of Paul Flessner. The funding is part of the company's philanthropic efforts to support education and communities across the globe.

BLACK COLLEAGUES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Members of the Black Colleagues Association continue their efforts to support students financially. Funds from four scholarships were awarded last fall during Homecoming, including the Judge Russell R. DeBow Scholarship and Vincent Lionel Davis Scholarship.

Seniors Katona Johnson and Ronnell Robinzine, sophomore Lorryn Neely, and freshman Karyn Burns received \$1,000 from the DeBow fund. A 1935 graduate, DeBow was awarded the University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1976.

Sophomore Keisha Fletcher was awarded \$1,000 from the Vincent Lionel Davis Scholarship. The fund honors the memory of the 1981 graduate, who died in the line of duty as an employee of the Dallas fire department.

Freshman Gordon Booker received the President's Book Scholarship, which is sponsored by President Al Bowman. Graduate student Jessica Brumfield received the Vice President for Student Affairs' Book Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time.

The seven recipients received assistance for the 2008-2009 academic year. Entering and continuing African American undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applications for the 2009-2010 academic year will be available in March. Additional infor-



Illinois State University Black Colleagues Association Scholarship Recipients include, from left, Lorryn Neely, Ronnell Robinzine, and Jessica Brumfield

mation is online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/about_us/scholarships or by e-mail to khowell@ilstu.edu. The application deadline is May 1.

Individuals interested in contributing to the DeBow or Davis scholarship funds can do so by going to www.alumni.ilstu.edu/giving.

Athletics

COACHING LEGEND INDUCTED INTO VALLEY HALL OF FAME

In honor of his coaching achievements at Illinois State, former head track and field and cross country coach John



John Coughlan

Coughlan is one of six members of the 2009 Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Hall of Fame inductees. He will be inducted during the State Farm MVC men's basketball tournament in March. Coughlan is the most decorated track and field/cross country head coach in Redbird history. He guided the men's program for 23 seasons, and the women's squad for eight campaigns. He led the Redbirds to 25 league championships, and mentored 291 MVC individual champions. Valley Coach of the Year 24 times, Coughlan took district coach-of-the-year honors nine times.

On the national level he shepherded 195 student-athletes to the NCAA Championships in 18 different track events, producing 37 All-Americans. Illinois State placed in the NCAA Championship top-25 on five occasions. He was named national coach of the year in 1995.

Coughlan, who retired in 2000, is a member of the Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame, the Drake Relays Hall of Fame, and the U.S. Track and Field and

Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

FORMER REDBIRD ENTERS CHICAGOLAND HALL OF FAME

Former Illinois State student-athlete and National Football League defensive back Mike Prior '85 was inducted into the Chi-



Mike Prior '85

cagoland Sports Hall of Fame last fall. A native of Chicago Heights, Prior was a defensive back with the Green Bay Packers from 1993-1998. He participated in two Super Bowls, and had an interception in Super

Bowl XXXI. Before joining the Packers, Prior spent six seasons in Indianapolis with the Colts and two with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

While at Illinois State Prior was a two-sport athlete lettering with both the football and baseball teams. He still ranks first in Illinois State history for career interceptions with 24, and also tops the all-time career punt return yards list with 906. His baseball statistics include a career batting average of .388, and a career slugging percentage of .715. Both are still Redbird records.

TWO CHOSEN AS STUDENT- ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Senior football player Kedric Meredith and former swimmer Tracy Deyell '08 were named top athletes for the 2007-2008 season during the State Farm Student-Athlete Academic Excellence Banquet held last fall.

Meredith received the Doug Collins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, which is named after Redbird basketball legend Doug Collins '73. Meredith started every game last season. He set career highs with 16 catches for 179 yards and two touchdowns. He averaged 11.2 yards



Tracy Deyell '08



Kedric Meredith

per catch, and was instrumental in the Redbird running game.

He is a member of Student Accounting Society, the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts, the National Association of Black Accountants, and was named captain of his Scholar-Bal-

ler™ team. He has a 3.34 cumulative grade point average in accounting and finance, and is an eight-time member of the AFNI Athletics Honor Roll.

Deyell received the Linda Herman Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, which is named after longtime Illinois State coach and administrator Linda Herman. Deyell set the University record in the 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley (IM), as well as the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) record in the 400-yard IM last season.

She was an All-Valley performer, an MVC Scholar-Athlete, and an ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District V selection. She completed a sociology degree with a 3.98 cumulative grade point average, received the MVC Presi-

dent's Council Academic Award, and was named to the MVC Honor Roll. She was a member of the AFNI Honor Roll every semester at Illinois State.

Letters

Letters on issues discussed in Illinois State or relating to university news or policies are welcome. All letters should be limited to 250 words or less and are subject to editing. Send e-mail to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu; fax to (309) 438-8411; or mail to Illinois State, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790-3420.

Director of Admissions receives MVC Most Courageous Award

Molly (Hirt) Arnold '83, M.A. '86, Illinois State's director of Admissions, has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Missouri Valley Conference Most Courageous Award.

The award is presented to a past or present student-athlete, coach, or university administrator who demonstrates unusual courage in the face of personal illness, adversity or tragedy; and whose behavior reflects honor on the institution or the conference. Individuals receiving the award might also have performed heroic feats or otherwise inspired others.

Arnold, who has been with the University for 19 years, has served as director of Admissions since 2004. She spends countless hours during the week and on weekends meeting with recruits, and assisting Redbird coaches with prospective student-athletes. Her dedication and service to Illinois State have not waned, despite her personal fight against cancer.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in May of 2001, Arnold had surgery, began chemotherapy, and started a maintenance drug routine. In 2005 she learned that the cancer had metastasized to her bones. Doctors explained that there is no cure, and predicted

her life expectancy was less than two years.

Nearly three years later, Arnold perseveres through chemotherapy, blood work, and monthly bone-hardening intravenous medication. She is active as a wife, mother, and Redbird fan. She continues to make a difference in the lives of all she touches.

Arnold balances optimism with reality, and is fortunate to have husband, Scott, and children, Briana, Bryce and Haley, who are committed to do whatever needs to be done.

"I'm living on borrowed time. I hope someone will look at me and think, 'She's still going, even though the odds are against her.' No one knows how much time they have," Arnold said. "I know how precious every day is."



Molly (Hirt) Arnold '83, M.A. '86

Redbird *romance*

Couples come together through campus connection



BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE



Mari (Prepejchal) and Daniel Brzostowski are about to celebrate their first anniversary.

Mari Prepejchal '00, M.S. '02, wasn't looking for love while studying sociology and psychology. She in fact hadn't paid much attention to fellow psychology student Daniel Brzostowski '99, M.S. '01, when they shared a class her freshman year.

She didn't think much of it when they met again while Mari was competing on the Illinois State Bowling Team, as Dan was a friend of a teammate. But then their paths crossed off campus as well.

"As part of our master's program we each had to intern at a local social service agency. Since I was a year behind Dan, I ended up taking his position at the Baby Fold, and once again we were sharing friends and coworkers," Mari recalled.

It was after Dan had graduated and returned for a campus visit with mutual friends that he and Mari really started talking. They realized all they had in common, including the honors psychology class they'd completed with Professor James Johnson.

That conversation led to dating, and the two remained a couple after finishing their degrees. When the time came for a marriage proposal, Dan wanted the memorable moment to be on the campus that brought them together.

"Dan planned an elaborate weekend trip to Illinois State during Spring Fling in April of 2007. He had been talking to several friends, Dr. Johnson, and our Baby Fold supervisor, Susan Bellas," Mari said. They teamed together without Mari's knowledge for a campus scavenger hunt.

"I visited Haynie Hall, Avanti's, and the Bowling and Billiards Center to get clues that took me to the next location," Mari said. "Dr. Johnson and the last clue eventually led me to Daniel behind Stevenson Hall, waiting to propose."

The wedding date was May 31, 2008. "Several of our attendants graduated from Illinois State. Even our professor whose class we met in attended our wedding," Mari said. "Our guests sat at tables that were named with Illinois State themes."

Today Mari and Dan live in Buffalo Grove. She is as an outpatient therapist at Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health, and he works in private practice as an outpatient therapist with Arbor Counseling Center.

“We try to get back to Illinois State as often as possible,” Mari said. “We continue to reminisce about the time we spent there, and how it helped to form our relationship.”

Dan and Mari are not alone in finding romance while enrolled at the University. There are 14,023 married or partnered alumni couples scattered across the country. Their unique stories give a glimpse of Illinois State through time, and confirm there is no stronger campus connection than two Redbirds in love.



Verda (Stahly) and Robert Maurer

It cost \$165 total to attend Illinois State Normal University when Bob Maurer '37 enrolled, and yet he wasn't sure he could afford it. His savings was in a bank he feared would fold during the Depression.

Verda Stahly '38 came to campus equally concerned about the dollar. “The times were so horrible. It was such a privilege to get to go to college,” said Verda, who studied home economics and science.

Bob majored in agriculture and was on the track team. He was an officer in the department's Maize Grange club, which hosted a roller-skating party in 1935. It was there the two met. Bob skated up and made Verda his partner with a little tap.

“I knew when I tagged her she was the one,” he said. “It was love at first sight.”

Their dates were restricted, as Verda was under a 10:30 p.m. curfew, and the eyes of Jessie Rambo—who monitored the conduct of all women. Campus fun consisted of Sock Hops, cards played in Old Main, and bands in McCormick, which was one of few buildings standing. Only a few had cars so Verda and Bob walked to the Normal bakery, where day-old bread was a nickel. A quart of milk cost another five cents.

“We could get five-cent hamburgers at a place called Mel Tam,” Bob said, recalling the favorite spot near where the Alamo II now stands. But the two couldn't study together at the library.

“That was really frowned upon,” Verda said, noting in those days dating was discreet. Married women weren't admitted to the University. Liquor and cigarettes were banned as well, and those caught with either were immediately expelled.

Jobs were hard to find with the onset of World War II soon after their graduation, however, Verda started teaching in rural Springfield. Weekend dates and letters kept the two connected as Bob taught in Hopedale.

Verda wasn't allowed to teach after the two married on June 28, 1940. They relocated to Fairbury, where Bob served 50 years as a bank real estate and loan officer. Verda returned to the classroom after their two children were older, retiring in 1972.

Now living in Bloomington, their lives are full with five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a wealth of happy memories that started at the roller rink some 70 years ago.



'30s



Margaret (Tombaugh) and Owen Richardson

The Ag-Home Ec dance at McCormick in January of 1942 wasn't appealing to then freshman Margaret Tombaugh '45. "I didn't want to go, but my roommate persuaded me," she said.

She danced with several fellas, but sophomore Owen Richardson caught her attention. "He was such a good-looking guy, I thought he'd crashed the party," Margaret said. The attraction was mutual, and Owen asked to walk Margaret home. "He was disappointed to find out I lived a block away at Fell Hall!"

That was the first of many memorable evenings for the couple, who courted on a budget. "Our dates were long walks, an occasional movie, and sharing nickel cokes with two straws at the Co-Op. We worked hard, but we had no money," Margaret recalled, noting their jobs ranged from milking cows on the University Farm to cleaning faculty houses.

Owen's education was cut short to help on the family farm in Spring Grove when his father became ill. Letters kept the two united from afar for three years, as gas rationing made visits rare.

The couple married on July 21, 1945. Margaret took a teaching job near the Richardson farm, which remains their home. Parents to five and grandparents to 11, Margaret and Owen include their children in operating the farm. They sell Christmas trees and boast the World's Largest Corn Maze (www.richardsonfarm.com).

"We've got three generations of the family involved," said Margaret, grateful for a legacy that began during her "wonderful days" at ISNU.

Muriel (Gresham) and Albert Garber

As chair of the 1948 Homecoming float for the social science majors, Muriel Gresham '49 had a big job to complete. Fellow major Albert Garber '51, M.S. '53, volunteered his help, which is how he met his future bride.

"We made boxes with the numbers of football players on them," said Albert, who was an older student when the two met. He was a World War II veteran living in the campus barracks, while Muriel lived in Fell Hall.

Their Homecoming encounter led to simple dates. "There wasn't a whole lot to do, and we didn't have a lot of money," Albert said. "We went to a movie and football game once and awhile. We spent a lot of time in Milner Library."

Because Albert's military service delayed his education, Muriel finished her degree first. "I was still in school and she started teaching," he said, noting Muriel's first job was in Minonk-Dana. The two married on June 26, 1949.

Albert graduated two years later, and also began a career as an educator in Illinois. Together the two taught a combined total of six decades in the Springfield area. She worked with high school students, while Albert was an elementary and middle school teacher.

Now retired and living in Springfield, the couple enjoys spending time with their three daughters and grandchild. As they approach their 60th wedding anniversary, Albert confesses the project that brought them together is a hazy memory.

"I don't remember the float that well to be honest," he said, "just the boxes."



'40s

Anita (Brown) and Charles Jaeger

Anita Brown '56 was a waitress at the Cage when she met Charles Jaeger '55, M.S. '61. He washed dishes at the Pilgrim, but stopped by the Cage for a meal.

"I didn't think he paid much attention to me. He was shy," Anita said. Charles was so bashful that their first date occurred through faculty intervention.

"The junior class was having a hayride, and Special Education Department Head Rose Parker talked him into getting a date," Anita said. Charles left a note in Anita's mailbox. Her roommate convinced her to go.

"It was in October of 1953, and the event was at the University Farm. We got there early and sat in the barn, reading old funny papers," Anita said. She had no idea Charles was allergic to hay.

The two dated three years. "There was no student union, so we spent hours sitting on the stone benches on campus talking," Anita said. "We had little money, so we took advantage of the free movies at Capen."

They moved into a Bloomington apartment following their wedding on July 15, 1956. Each taught more than 30 years, while raising three sons. Now retired and residing in Peoria, they have eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

"It all started because he ordered a grilled cheese sandwich and hot chocolate," said Anita, who prepared the combination after they married. It was then Charles confessed he hated the meal.

"The sandwich was the cheapest thing we served," Anita said. "It was 20 cents, and that's all he could afford."



Sheryl (Trudgian) and Dennis Jones

Dennis Jones '66 was bored during the winter break of 1964. He stayed on campus between semesters, and buddied up with another Dunn-Barton resident to find some fun.

"We decided to see who else was still on campus. We looked over at Hamilton-Whitten and saw a couple rooms with lights on. We figured out the room numbers and called," Dennis said. The women who answered the phone fortunately decided to take a chance.

"They were looking for something to do too," Dennis recalled, explaining how he ended up on a blind double date with Sheryl Trudgian '67. He was a junior and she was a freshman when they met.

"We hit it off pretty well from the start," Dennis said. The two continued to spend time together at campus parties and dances. With their homes less than 50 miles apart, they connected during the summer as well.

The couple married on August 13, 1966.

Dennis started his teaching career while Sheryl finished her degree. He worked in middle schools, she chose early childhood education, and together they raised three daughters.

After years in the classroom the two started Whispers Bed and Breakfast in Three Rivers, Michigan. "Sherry loved the cooking, and I loved the conversation," Dennis said of their five-year venture.

Now retired from that work, they reside in Portage, Michigan. Days are spent enjoying time with their five grandchildren, and each other. As they approach their 43rd anniversary, both remain grateful that Sheryl left her dorm light on all those years ago.



'50s



'60s



'80s

Carol (Sherry) and John Cogswell

Carol Sherry '73 and John Cogswell '72 both completed College of Business majors, but it was a physical education elective that brought them together.

"We met in an introductory dance class," John said, remembering the social folk course from 1971. "The instructor started the class by having the men line up on one side, and the ladies on the other side. I was the first in line for the men, and Carol was first in line for the ladies."

The first dance was the grand promenade. "We filed along in line pairing up, and walked around the room hand-in-hand. We were the first couple, and danced the rest of that class together," John said. "In fact we danced almost every other dance that semester together as well."

Their first date was a basketball game. Steak 'N Shake and Capen movies became favorites for the two, who were a steady couple by the time the dance class ended. Married on August 18, 1973, they moved to Peoria and started careers at Keystone.

Job transfers resulted in a move to Indiana. Currently semiretired in Indianapolis, John is in real estate and Carol works for Amazon.com. They are parents of three children, and grandparents to two.

"All that from one little dance," said John, who delights in reminding Carol about the square dance unit.

"The instructor pointed to our square and said the men were superb," John said. "A point I often have made over the past thirty-five years is that the instructor didn't mention the women in the square!"

Kathleen (Babica) and Edwin Pierce

Serendipity and persistence tell the story of how Ed Pierce '81 found Kathy Babica '88.

"The odds of us meeting were enormous," Kathy said. "He was on a bus and I was standing in front of the Alamo II in the winter of 1986. He decided then he had to find out who the tall girl was."

It wasn't until spring when the two met again at a Normal print shop. "I noticed the man at the counter staring at me. It was Ed," said Kathy, who studied mass communications. An art major, Ed spent the next nine months asking Kathy out to the movies, lunch, dinner, coffee—anything. Her answer was always a polite 'no thank you.'

That changed with Ed's last attempt in January of 1988, when Kathy agreed to dinner at The Grand Café in Bloomington. More dates followed, and Kathy changed her plan to pursue a career in Chicago. She opted to instead date the guy who fixed guitars and played in a local band.

The two married on June 19, 1993, with the rehearsal dinner at The Grand Café. They partnered to create Monster Pawn and Monster Deals in Bloomington-Normal. She is a member of the National Pawnbrokers Association Board of Directors.

"Twenty-one years after our first date we are still best friends, and very much in love," Kathy said. With three children who are attending the University's Metcalf Laboratory School, their campus ties remain strong.

"We're not only an Illinois State connection," Kathy said, "but an ISU family!"



'70s

Melissa (Cheek) and Scott Schneider

A study break and the need for caffeine led Melissa Cheek '96 and Scott Schneider '95 to the Burger King near campus one midnight in the fall of 1991.

"I lived in Walker Hall and was with a friend who knew Melissa," Scott recalled. "Then the following week I saw her at an apartment party. Everything just took off from there."

The two met for pizza at Garcia's, and then scheduled a more formal date at Bennigan's. That dinner evolved into a six-hour conversation, and started a courtship their freshman year that continued to graduation.

"Our relationship just blossomed from that point on," said Scott, who majored in parks and recreation. Melissa was an elementary education student who became an avid Redbird fan, as Scott was a member of the men's tennis team. "She lived in Atkin-Colby so she could watch us practice from her dorm," Scott said.

Engaged their senior year, the two married on June 29, 1996. They moved to Indiana, where they owned multiple Video Specialty stores. Melissa taught kindergarten before they relocated to Punta Gorda, Florida. Wiped out by Hurricane Charley, they have rebuilt their lives there. They now own Sunshine Partners of Southwest Florida LLC, and Schneider Zwei LLC—a property management company and property investment company, respectively.

Parents to two children, Scott and Melissa remain loyal to Illinois State despite their distance from campus. "It was a great experience, and we loved it," said Scott, who proves his point by noting one of their poodles, Reggie, is "named after ISU's awesome mascot!"



'90s



At the root of it all

Illinois State's horticulturist nurtures through nature

BY STEVEN BARCUS

Illinois State's Don Schmidt, M.S. '88, is a man of many faces, and two green thumbs. He is known throughout Central Illinois, among his colleagues, and by students as "the plant guy," WGLT's Dean of Green, and "the unofficial tree guy." All titles stem from an expertise honed in his official role as the University's horticulturist.

Schmidt's job involves contributing to the lush and diverse foliage found around campus. His time and talent are vital in growing plants for the University's use in teaching, research, and student labs.

Though Schmidt always carried a deep-seeded interest in plants, he originally planned to study architecture. "I didn't even know it was possible to study horticulture. Then I was walking around the University of Illinois campus and saw the Ornamental Horticulture Building. I thought, 'Oh wow. You can get a degree in that?' I found out you can, and I did," Schmidt said, recalling his undergraduate days.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in horticulture, and became involved with landscaping and nurseries. Years later he came to Illinois State as a graduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences. While working toward his master's

degree, he was chosen to be the department's horticulturalist.

His campus roots went even deeper when Schmidt met his wife, Carol Morton, Ph.D. '91, in an entomology course that had them both collecting bugs. The two later married at Funks Grove Nature Preserve. Carol served for 20 years as the Department of Biological Sciences academic advi-

south of campus, Funks Grove is dedicated to restoring prairie plants to Illinois.

"The primary thing I do out there is prairie restoration. We've restored close to 40 acres," Schmidt said. Restoring land to its natural condition is not an easy task. Starting from an agricultural field, it takes much care and effort before a field can begin to resemble the lush, full land it once was.

"We collect seeds from native plants and sow them into the field. Then we have to maintain and improve it over the years through burning, weed control, and planting seeds and plants to try to get the habitat back up to snuff," Schmidt said. He is dedicated to the work because the landscape is not only enjoyable for individuals who visit, but serves as a native home to many different kinds of animals and insects.

Schmidt also serves on the board of directors of the Parklands Foundation, an Illinois land trust that purchases acres of land to keep them from being developed. "They do wonderful work. We have a group of dedicated volunteers, and around 1,000 members. We work to maintain it in a naturally historic condition," Schmidt said. Today the Parklands Foundation has preserved almost 3,000 acres of land.

As temperatures rise Schmidt spends more time in the University's Fell Arboretum, which is a collection of trees and plants spread across Illinois State's 350-acre campus. He conducts tree walks for the public so regularly that Schmidt has gained an uncanny familiarity with the 120 species of trees within the arboretum.

"I try to show people things that they wouldn't see if they were walking by themselves, things that aren't obvious," he said. One example he gives is the species *Betula Lenta*—the Sweet Birch—which will emit a wintergreen smell from the stem when it is scratched. Another unique tree on campus is *Eucommia*, the Hardy Rubber Tree. It has leaves with elastic properties, as they contain conspicuous amounts of latex.

Such scientific and working knowledge has earned Schmidt the affectionate title of "the tree guy" on campus. "If someone says, 'What's this tree over here?' I can ask where it is, and then I can tell them exactly what it is. I would say I am as knowledgeable or maybe even more knowledgeable about the trees than anyone else on campus," Schmidt said.

"I try to show people things that they wouldn't see if they were walking by themselves, things that aren't obvious."



University horticulturalist Don Schmidt, M.S. '88, shares his knowledge of campus trees and plants during tours with students and the general public.

sor. She is now retired yet still returns to campus often, teaching courses in human genetics and human ecology.

Schmidt remains on the job full time, following a routine that is governed by the weather, season, and needs of the University. In a given day he cares for plants in two on-campus greenhouses, and prepares materials for use in labs.

"I am one of the most sensitive people to the seasons," Schmidt said. "People say that greenhouse plants should always look the same, but they don't. They are also sensitive in the seasons. Growth slows in the winter, and increases in the summer."

During the early months of the year Schmidt readies seedlings for planting, as well as native prairie plant species for Funks Grove and the Sugar Grove Nature Center. Located 30 minutes



"I teach someone else how to see the trees every week, and by doing that I am very familiar with the trees," said Schmidt, who is also an instructor of a landscape plant course. He and his students have tagged more than 3,000 trees with a small brass plate that identifies the common name, scientific name, and an identifier number.

When not on the Quad or in the greenhouse, Schmidt can be found in WGLT's broadcast booth. Since 1993 he has appeared on the University's public radio station *Dean of Green* program, which is transmitted throughout Illinois and some surrounding states. The program goes beyond addressing gardening issues, as Schmidt answers listeners' questions on anything from how a dry season is affecting plant growth to the return of the Cicadas, and whether or not they damage trees.

Schmidt's radio role began when he was asked to come by WGLT and talk about a drought situation. Following that broadcast he was invited back the next week, and the following week, until it eventually became routine. After five years sta-



Known to WGLT listeners as the Dean of Green, Schmidt enjoys answering questions that range from how to deal with a drought to best pruning practices.

Schmidt delights in helping listeners get ready for each new growing season.

tion managers moved his program from its early afternoon slot to the end of *Morning Edition* so that more people would have an opportunity to listen. The program continued to be broadcast in that time slot for two years before being replayed in the afternoon as well.

"I thought 'Whoa! Now I am on the two iconic programs of public radio—*Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. If you know anything about public radio, those are capstone programs, and I am a part of them," said Schmidt, who enjoys sharing his extensive knowledge of all things plants related with an audience that reaches beyond the campus community.

He was particularly pleased four years ago when WGLT listeners began to raise questions. "If it interests one person, it likely interests others. So I like it better since we started answering questions," said Schmidt, who gets more calls for advice as the weather warms.

Schmidt delights in helping listeners get ready for each new growing season, almost as much as he enjoys the hours spent cultivating his own work. Nothing pleases him more than to see a seed grow, be it as knowledge in a classroom he leads or as plants he nurtures across campus.

"It's a good fit for me," Schmidt said of his unique and varied role at the University. "It's what I love to do."



WEB EXTRA

WGLT's *Dean of Green* program is available as a podcast. Go to www.wglt.org/programs/dean_of_green/



Campaign for change



Zach Koutsky '06, left, and Michael Halle '06 joined forces on the campaign trail in North Carolina, where they helped deliver a state that hadn't carried a Democratic presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

How two alums helped Barack Obama become president

BY KATE ARTHUR

Getting off the couch after a long day of landscaping to hear a trailing U.S. Senate candidate speak wasn't exactly what Zach Koutsky '06 wanted to do on a sweaty summer night. But his mother said he was going.

She was impressed with Barack Obama, a name broadcasters were stumbling over in the 2004 Illinois Democratic primary. Koutsky had already pledged his support to Obama's competitor, and yet he drove to a Downers Grove golf course with his mother to hear from the last man on the agenda. As Obama opened it up to questions, Koutsky stood up.

"Both of my parents are teachers," he said. "We're solidly middle class, and I'm having trouble staying in a state school. This shouldn't be this hard."

Barack said he understood, that he and his wife were still paying off their college loans, and he had two young daughters. "It shouldn't be that hard," he agreed, before outlining his education plan.

When the meeting wrapped up, Koutsky walked up to ask what he could do. Obama asked if Koutsky would mind going to a couple more meetings that night. Obama was tired of walking into a room alone. Koutsky remembers being led to



Obama's beat-up Jeep, where he was handed a "God-awful blue" campaign T-shirt to wear.

And that's how Koutsky first met the 44th president of the United States.

There were countless other meetings, Koutsky said last fall, as he clicked through dozens of laptop e-mails, answered his BlackBerry, and roamed from room to room in a storefront North Carolina Democratic regional office just 34 days before the historic November election.

The 24-year-old was working in Raleigh for the Obama campaign in a state that hadn't carried a Democratic presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter in 1976. Koutsky shrugged off trailing poll numbers posted last October, instead talking about grassroots volunteers so committed that when a hurricane created local gas shortages, fuel was siphoned out of supporters' lawnmowers to get to neighborhood canvassing sites.

Koutsky's North Carolina roommate and boss was Michael Halle '06, deputy field director for state headquarters. Halle was responsible for coordinating the efforts of about 150 workers, and thousands of volunteers.

A month before the election Halle was working seven days a week, scrolling through as many as 11,000 e-mails a month. Wearing what seemed to be the campaign uniform of jeans and flip-flops, Halle zipped through the corridors of the state office the night of the vice presidential debate. He walked past a kitchen crammed with cases of bottled water, monster boxes of granola bars, and empty pizza boxes as he was pulled into impromptu meetings.

The two alums who became staff members on the "Campaign for Change" were friends when they shared the Quad at Illinois State. Koutsky had an interest in politics since high school. He majored in politics and government, and sociology. Halle started out studying business, but moved through a few majors before choosing sociology and political science as well.

Koutsky was in student government all four years, served as the student trustee on Illinois State's governing board, and led the University's College Demo-

Above: After taking the podium at an Iowa school, then Sen. Barack Obama thanks Michael Halle for his work on the primary race.

Opposite page, top left: A month before the election, Zach Koutsky was spending more than 100 hours a week trying to get out the vote in North Carolina, which was too close to call on election night but wound up in the Obama column by a margin of only 10,000 votes.



“The polarization of wealth was pretty clear...seeing how people in one neighborhood had so many fewer options—that was a call to get involved.”

crats. During his last semester he served as campaign manager for State Senator Michael Frerichs, who was the first Democrat elected in his Illinois district in more than 70 years.

Koutsky was visiting campus when he got the call that he'd been hired by the Obama campaign in May of 2007. He walked into the office of Illinois State's president, Al Bowman, and gave him the news. “Out of all the really cool people I've met, Al Bowman is without a doubt the one I've most strived to be like,” Koutsky said. “I loved ISU. When I got in, it just felt right.”

Halle has an equally strong appreciation for the University. He was particularly influenced by Sociology and Anthropology faculty Virginia Gill and Richard Sullivan. Gill had students in her sociology class drive to Bloomington's low-income neighborhoods and then tour the sprawling subdivisions only a few miles away.

“The polarization of wealth was pretty clear,” he said. “Seeing that in such a short drive, seeing how people in one neighborhood had so many fewer options—that was a call to get involved,” Halle said.

After graduation he worked as an intern at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Center for American Progress, until political connections took him to Iowa. He worked as a field organizer for the 2008 caucus, which ignited Obama's campaign with a win over Senators John Edwards and Hillary Clinton.

Halle became so familiar with his assigned 13 precincts that he could walk down a street and point out where the Democrats lived, and how they said they'd caucus. The level of organization the Obama campaign commanded in Iowa was the reason Halle wasn't surprised by their caucus victory.

“Iowa was an amazing experience. I think we were the only people who weren't surprised by it, and that's because we were on the ground. The last week I knew we weren't going to lose to Clinton.”

The day after the Iowa caucus Halle took calls from volunteers who wanted to keep working.

“People called me in tears, saying they never thought they could do anything like this. They wanted to get involved,” he recalled. “People suddenly felt they had the power to influence change.”

Halle kept ahead of the primaries, moving to Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana, all the time gaining confidence the election effort would lead to the White House. “The campaign found a way to harness grassroots enthusiasm and use it to turn out voters and build massive field organizations,” said Halle, who talked to thousands of voters.

One he'll never forget is an African-American man he called while trying to get out the vote in Kansas, traditionally a Republican state. The man said he was going to cast his vote for Obama in a school he wasn't allowed to attend as a child because of segregation.

Koutsky was also inspired by volunteers of all ages, particularly a quadriplegic man who registered voters with the help of his child and service dog. “Our campaign is all warm and fuzzy, but it's really about hope,” said Koutsky, who called thousands of undecided voters.

He easily handled the objections about Obama's taxation, health care, or education plans. But there was one sentence that would hit him cold: I don't know him. “When they say that, it's a conversation stopper. They're not ready to have a black president,” said Koutsky, whose political activism started at 16.

It was then presidential candidate George W. Bush visited Koutsky's Naperville high school with Dick Cheney. Students were asked to line the route to keep protestors at bay. Koutsky did that until he started seeing people he knew. Some



Koutsky easily handled the objections about Obama's taxation, health care, or education plans. But there was one sentence that would hit him cold: I don't know him.

were union members. His parents belonged to a teachers' union. He'd grown up attending union rallies and protests.

"Halfway through, I peeled off," he said. "I went home and told my parents I really didn't like it, and I didn't think it made sense," Koutsky said. He had their support when he decided to volunteer for Al Gore. Koutsky wrote postcards, delivered yard signs, and made thousands of long distance calls to Wisconsin voters from his parent's home.

When Obama was preparing to announce he was running for president in February of 2007, Koutsky volunteered. Three months later he was on the payroll. Before the January 2008 Iowa caucus, he pledged to go without shaving until the nomination was wrapped up, thinking that might be within a month. Six months later, he got the razor out. By November he'd worked in seven states.

"I don't have a home," he said last fall, as he sat on a card table chair in a room papered with county maps and phone bank charts. A couch, a fridge, and a donated desk supported by chunks of bricks completed his office decor. Working seven days a week, 100 hours or more, he'd been known to stay there overnight.

"As embarrassing as it is to walk out of your office after just waking up, that's what hats are for," he said.

Thirty days before the election, both alums' offices had the energy of an election night. Both were paid through Nov. 7, when they closed the offices and headed home. Neither of them had any plans for what they'd do after the votes were tallied.

"There's nothing I'd rather be doing, and I think almost anything would seem pretty easy after this," Halle said, noting the longest day he put in on the campaign was more than a day—26 hours straight. North Carolina was one of three states too close to call on election night, and wound up in the Obama column by a margin of only 10,000 votes.

The rewards far outweighed such sacrifices, as Halle and Koutsky are grateful to have been part of an election that captured the nation's attention. To see Obama become a candidate who drew several thousand to rallies across the country was a phenomenon neither alum will ever forget.

Such moments were especially meaningful for Halle, who remembers well the day he cooked a burger and a brat for the future president in an Iowan's backyard one summer day—with only 10 supporters on hand.



WEB EXTRA

Stephen Brokaw, a 2002 University High School alum, joined the Obama campaign in February of 2007 and served as his senior political consultant in Ohio. In a campus visit last fall he shared how the campaign reached young voters through blogs, e-mails, and Facebook. Go to www.IllinoisState.edu/home/alumni_magazine to download an audio file of his discussion.



**Gladly
she
taught**

Alumna's influential career in education began at ISNU

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

The fact that Jean Borg '50 came to Illinois State to obtain her teaching credentials is not surprising, given the majority of women who enrolled in the 1940s arrived on campus with similar aspirations. What sets her apart are the decisions she made, beginning as a student and throughout her career as an esteemed educator.

Borg's choices resulted in a degree that took her from Central Illinois middle school classrooms to a Florida campus and on to the nation's educational front-line, where she empowered working teachers. Now an active volunteer in her Clearwater community, she continues to exemplify the University's fundamental mission of teaching, learning, and public service.

Borg remains committed to seeing students reach their potential under the direction of talented teachers educated at Illinois State, which is why she has created four funds at the University. The Jean M. Borg Endowed Scholarship and Mary R. Borg Presidential Scholarship specifically benefit teacher education students.

The Borg Endowment for the Mary and Jean Borg Center for Reading and Literacy not only advances a College of Education initiative, but stands as a tribute to Borg's mother, Mary. The Jean M. Borg Campus Enhancement Fund supports the University's physical environment. It also reflects the influence of Borg's father, Fred, who instilled in her a love of nature.

"My father loved the outdoors," Borg said. She remembers fondly how a childhood filled with pets and animals raised at her home in the rural Illinois community of Winchester sparked her interest in biology as a schoolgirl.

"I loved learning, and I loved school. My mother got me into a prekindergarten class when I was not quite 4," Borg said, confessing it took "a little white lie" to be enrolled so young.

A high school graduate herself, Mary became a strong motivator in her daughter's life. "I'd always wanted to be a teacher. My mother wanted me at a good teacher school, and she was the force behind me coming to Illinois State," Borg said.

While her father was hoping Jean would study closer to home, he too was influential in making her collegiate dreams come true. "He had served in the United States Army, and had received a Purple Heart as a World War I veteran," Borg said. She consequently received a veteran's scholarship from the state, which made it possible for her to enroll at what was then Illinois State Normal University.

"I was the saver in the family. I had the piggy bank, and I learned how to budget," Borg said. Yet with the Great Depression ongoing when it came time to enroll,



Jean Borg, opposite page and as an ISNU student above, honors her parents through gifts to the University.

Mary and Fred Borg influenced their daughter's decision to attend Illinois State.



Students receive individual attention through the Mary and Jean Borg Center for Reading and Literacy within the College of Education. Tripper Pierce, a Metcalf Elementary student, works with Nichole Day, an Illinois State graduate student completing a master's in reading.

“Illinois State has meant so much to me. It really is my home. I came because I wanted to be a teacher, and I reached my goal.”

money was tight. “That scholarship made a big difference, as it paid for books and tuition. I definitely needed it,” Borg said.

With the demand for teachers great, Borg started her degree work in elementary education. Within two years job offers were plentiful. “It was decision time. Mother reminded me elementary education was not what I wanted to do, and encouraged me to make a choice,” Borg said. “I really wanted to be in biology. I transferred, and I loved it.”

A similar dilemma surfaced during her senior year, as Borg was enticed to take a biology teaching position. She chose to remain focused on completing her degree in education, and waited until after graduation to take her first job as a science teacher in Momence Junior High School.

She taught in LeRoy as well before joining the Bloomington Junior High School staff. Robert Knight, then principal of the school, encouraged Borg to complete a graduate degree in counselor education. She transitioned into a counseling position at a high school in Champaign before moving to the faculty ranks in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of South Florida in 1972.

“All my life I hated snow,” Borg said, noting the climate change was a bonus when she took on duties in Florida. Her work there went beyond the college classroom. She was chosen to serve on a national commission focused on the professional development of teachers in the U.S.

The commission created 17 different project centers across the country, providing direction and administrative support. The work required the centers to develop, field test, and share leadership materials that were based on studies of empirical research for teacher education. Other studies were done into the preparation of test questions to enhance learning.

“The focus was always on a commitment to the development of best practices in teacher education. The subjects were relevant to the day,” such as instilling self-esteem in young women, Borg said. Other topics included classroom management, meaning teacher behaviors conducive to student involvement. Teacher language that is related to student achievement, such as teacher clarity and the use of student responses, was another issue explored.

Borg traveled from coast to coast while with the commission, sharing with teachers in the classroom the wisdom she gleaned as an educator herself. Much of what she imparted came directly from her Illinois State experience, where one of the most important lessons learned was the need to be genuinely interested in the students.

“It’s just wonderful to work with the students,” Borg said, reflecting on how her desire for such an opportunity brought her to Illinois State initially. That enthusiasm carried her through to her retirement in 1993, and motivated her to make such a significant financial contribution to the alma mater she still cherishes.

“Illinois State has meant so much to me. It really is my home. I came because I wanted to be a teacher, and I reached my goal,” she said. “I had a great experience here, and I’ve had a wonderful journey.”

Journey from graduate to donor marked by gratitude

The first recipient of the Jean M. Borg Endowed Scholarship will be chosen this fall. Having benefited herself from financial help as an undergraduate in the 1940s, Jean Borg '50 will share a special bond with the still unidentified student.

"My scholarship was very important. That's what made it possible for me to come to Illinois State," Borg said. "I appreciate so much having been at the University, and I just wanted to give back." She was able to do so by purposefully planning gifts that will assist students, as well as advance College of Education initiatives.

The Jean M. Borg Scholarship is designated for an upper-classman majoring in the teacher education sequence of biological sciences. The student must plan to teach biology. The Mary R. Borg Endowed Presidential Scholarship is intended for an incoming freshman student majoring in elementary education, with plans to become a teacher. Both will be awarded annually.

"These gifts may be the difference in a capable student coming to Illinois State," said College of Education Dean Deborah Curtis. "They will also help us widen our applicant pool so that we draw the brightest students."

Borg's other two gifts have a more broad reach, as the Jean M. Borg Campus Enhancement Fund provides revenue to protect and enrich the University's grounds for all to enjoy. The Mary and Jean Borg Center for Reading and Literacy will likewise have an impact far into the future.

The center is located in DeGarmo Hall. Its mission is to improve reading and literacy of all citizens by providing support to local school districts and community groups, employers, regional education offices, and state agencies. The center also provides tutoring to children from kindergarten through high school. Borg knows such personal assistance is critical for students who may be struggling.

"I taught reading for three years at the junior high level. The ones who were behind in their reading came to me," said Borg, who is pleased her gifts will create positive change in the lives of children and families for years to come.



The Mary and Jean Borg Center for Reading and Literacy was dedicated in September. Several administrators gathered to honor Jean Borg at the event. *From left*, College of Education Dean Deborah Curtis, Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft, Borg, Center Director Linda Wedwick, Linda and President Al Bowman, and Borg's financial advisor Rick Sabbides.

Beyond the Literacy Development Tutoring Program, Borg's gift will bolster the center's Occasional Lecture Series, and enhance learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student education through ongoing research. She and Curtis are confident the dollars will advance educational issues crucial to students and educators alike.

"Some of the latest research in literature says one of the biggest reasons we lose students is poor literacy skills," Curtis said. "Reading must come first. It's fundamental. That's not just a slogan, but a fact."

Curtis noted that Borg's gifts to the center will "hit every generation," as children will be tutored, college students will gain clinical experience, and faculty will complete research that shapes policies as well as the classroom curriculum.

"Throughout her career Jean has been quietly engaged in meaningful ways," said Curtis, who is truly grateful for Borg's commitment and contributions. "Her gifts carry on her passion, and will ripple out exponentially."

AlumniServices

University Planetarium's mission is to entertain, educate

Illinois State students aren't the only ones who come to campus to learn. The University's Planetarium educates and inspires more than 15,000 visitors annually, including school groups and individuals from communities across the state.

A part of the University's Department of Physics, the Planetarium opened in 1964. Since then more than 275,000 have come to the white-domed building located at the end of Felmley Hall of Science.

Director Thomas Willmitch oversees the planetarium presentations, including nearly 70 public shows and more than 200 programs for school and community groups annually. School programs and shows for community groups are arranged by reservation.

The Planetarium's projector places 2,354 stars on the building's 30-foot dome. The Milky Way Auxiliary effects are also visible, including clusters, eclipses, and binary stars. All come alive through a variety of enriching and entertaining Planetarium programs that change with the seasons.

Multi-media programs that combine narration with slides, video, special effects, and music focus on a single topic. An example includes *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, which examines tales surrounding the Big Dipper.

Sky lectures introduce the daytime and night sky, with specific topics targeted to audiences depending on age. One program, for example, helps early elementary school children locate and name the four principal directions by using the sun during the day, and the North Star at night. In-service teacher workshops are also offered through the Planetarium, which has adult education classes and a traveling telescope program as well.

Live presentations include talks that highlight the stars and constellations found in the current evening sky. Special programs are available upon request, including laboratory exercises or lessons related to special topics, such as the effect of latitude motion. Presentations are offered in six foreign languages.

Admission is \$4 per person or less depending on age, with group discounts available. Group showings must be arranged at least two weeks in advance. Individual tickets are sold 20 minutes prior to each show, with a maximum capacity of 100 per presentation. Programs are available throughout most of the academic year.



QUICK REFERENCE

RESOURCE:
**Illinois State University
Planetarium**

DIRECTOR:
Thomas Willmitch

WEB SITE:
**[www.phy.ilstu.edu/~trw/
planet.html](http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~trw/planet.html)**

PHONE:
**(309) 438-8756 to make
reservations (309) 438-5007
hotline for showings and times**

Need documents replaced?

Two of the most frequent inquiries from alumni are questions about how to replace a transcript, and if it is possible to get a copy of a diploma. The Office of the University Registrar can easily handle both requests. Staff will help alumni obtain a replacement for a diploma cover as well. And you don't need to make a trip to campus to get the documents you need. Requests can be conveniently submitted by going online to www.registrar.ilstu.edu/alumni/transcripts. The steps and fees for ordering replacements are explained in detail on the Web site, which also provides contact information and the necessary forms.



An alumni perspective

My name is Ashley Mayor, and I am proud to be a lifelong Redbird. As a 2008 graduate of Illinois State, I am beginning to realize the great possibilities that are available to me as an alumnus of this fine university.

Since graduation I have taken a full-time teaching position in the McLean County Unit 5 School District as a third grade teacher. I have opened a new chapter in my life, with a new career, new responsibilities, and new goals, and Illinois State is right by my side. The University continues to support me as an educator by providing clinical students who are eager and willing to come into my classroom to advance my students' learning.

I have become involved with the Alumni Association Board of Directors, which gives me the opportunity to support alumni programming and have a voice in important matters concerning alumni. In addition to my role with the board, I continue to find ways to give back to the University through speaking at events with the College of Education and Honors Program, and by participating in service events hosted by campus organizations.



I have continued to stay involved at Illinois State for professional growth, networking opportunities, and social events. I benefit from opportunities to listen to world-renowned speakers, such as Eli Weisel. In addition I am going to be continuing my education by pursuing a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

I have had the opportunity to grow as a professional, to develop lifelong relationships, and to find support in my career as I "gladly learn and teach." It is my hope that you too will find a way to remain connected to our alma mater!

Ashley Mayor '08

AlumniEvents

Illinois State University Alumni Association

February

19 Founders Day

Contact: Campus Office

This day marks Illinois State's founding in 1857. Among events planned is a convocation in Braden Auditorium. Alumni are invited to join faculty, staff, and students for this annual celebration. For more information call (309) 438-8790 or e-mail universityevents@ilstu.edu.

19 Alumni Association Awards Ceremony

Contact: Campus Office

The Alumni Association will present at the Founders Day convocation awards to five graduates for their professional accomplishments and service. Recipients will be honored at a recognition dinner. Go to www.alumni.ilstu.edu/events for more information.

March

5-8 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Contact: Redbird Athletics

Don't miss the Illinois State men's basketball team in the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis. A pregame reception will be held in the center before the first Redbird game. Ticket and pregame event information is available online at GoRedbirds.com or by calling (309) 438-8000.

7 Schaumburg Waterworks Pool Party—Redbird Family Night

Contact: Campus Office

Join other alumni and their families at an indoor pool party at the Waterworks Indoor Water Park in Schaumburg. This event will be a splashing good time for alumni, family, and friends of all ages! Admission is \$5 and space is limited. Pre-registration is requested.

12-15 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Contact: Redbird Athletics

The Illinois State women's basketball team will play in the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament at the Family

Here's a sampling of alumni events on campus and across the country.

For the most up-to-date event information or to register online, please visit www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni/events. Detailed information for all university events is available on the University Calendar at www.calendar.ilstu.edu.

Arena in St. Charles, Missouri. A pregame reception will be held. Ticket and pregame event information is available online at GoRedbirds.com or by calling (309) 438-8000.

21 Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

Contact: Campus Office

This quarterly meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors will be held at 10 a.m. in the Alumni Center. E-mail alumni@IllinoisState.edu for more information.

24-25 Gamma Phi Alumni Club Social and Circus

Contact: Campus Office

The oldest collegiate circus in the nation will perform during Sibling Weekend. Tickets for alumni seating must be purchased by April 17. Alumni tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children ages 5-12, and 4 and under free. General admission tickets will be available at the door. Go to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/events for information about other Sibling Weekend activities.

May

3 Redbird Theatre Day—*Mary Poppins* in Chicago

Contact: Campus Office

Join Redbird families for the 1 p.m. production of *Mary Poppins* at the Chicago Cadillac Palace Theatre. A special Illinois State gathering will be held prior to show time. Space is limited. Additional information is online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/events.

12 Redbird Baseball in Joliet

Contact: Redbird Athletics

The men's baseball team will take on the University of Notre Dame at Jackhammer Stadium in Joliet. First pitch is 6:30 p.m.,

with a reception prior to the game. Ticket and pregame event information is available online at GoRedbirds.com or by calling (309) 438-8000.

14-15 Half Century Club Spring Reunion

Contact: Campus Office

The Half Century Club annual Spring Reunion will be in the Alumni Center. The class of 1959 will have a dinner and induction into the Half Century Club on May 14. There will be a social for existing members that evening, with light refreshments served. Half Century Club showcase presentations will begin at 8 a.m. on the 15th. A luncheon will follow.

June

27 Gamma Kappa Co-Op Reunion

Contact: Campus Office

Join members of Gamma Kappa Co-Op for a 40th reunion that will include a meal and evening of fun at the Alumni Center. For more information, contact Cheryl (Muhlenbruch) Sutton '70 at (618) 384-7015 or e-mail gammakappagirls@yahoo.com.

Contact Us

To register by phone or for more information, please call the office indicated for each specific event.

CAMPUS OFFICE
(309) 438-2586 or toll free (800) 366-4478

CHICAGO OFFICE
(312) 251-3500 or toll free (866) 366-4478

REDBIRD ATHLETICS
(309) 438-3803



Happy to be home again

Alumni of all ages returned to campus during Homecoming last fall. Families and friends gathered for the annual parade, followed by tailgating before the football game. The unveiling of the Alumni Center was another highlight. Additional photos are available online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/homecoming. Special thanks to sponsors, including Avanti's Italian Restaurant; Bank of Illinois; Barnes & Noble College Bookstore; Ferrara Pan Candy Company; and Smoothie King. Don't miss the chance to return this year for Homecoming on October 12-18. Plan now to come back to your collegiate home!



WEB EXTRA

See more related photos at
www.alumni.ilstu.edu/homecoming.



Alumni support key to success of campus fraternity

by Roy Taylor '93

Undergraduate and alumni members of Illinois State's chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity experienced a year of milestones in 2008. Alumni celebrated the 20th anniversary of the chapter's return to campus, while the undergraduates moved into a new chapter house purchased with the assistance of a chapter alumnus.

TKE International Fraternity was founded in 1899. When the first national fraternities were allowed at Illinois State in 1969, a local "men's cooperative" named Al-Azhar became the Mu-Upsilon Chapter of TKE. By the late 1970s membership had dwindled, and it became dormant.

The chapter's status changed when Mike Milinac '90 transferred to the University in 1988. Milinac was a member of TKE at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and wished to rebuild the Illinois State chapter. During his first semester, Milinac recruited 22 students to become "founding fathers" of the revived chapter.

In 1989 the TKE colony secured its first chapter house at 302 E. Mulberry in Normal. The chapter was officially rechartered by TKE International headquarters as the reincarnated Mu-Upsilon Chapter on May 5, 1990.

Most fraternity chapters suffer highs and lows over the years. Some will fail, as happened with TKE in the 1970s at Illinois State. But support from the chapter's alumni is one way to increase the chances of survival. In the late 1990s TKE alumni

created a strong alumni board of advisors, which played an integral role in the ongoing success of the undergraduate chapter.

TKE's Alumni Association President Gary O'Donnell, a physics major in the 1990s, put together a group of investors last spring to purchase a former sorority house at 306 W. Willow in Normal. In August the undergraduate chapter moved into the best facility in which they have ever lived.

The chapter's alumni advisory board organized a reunion last October to celebrate the 1988 re-establishment of the TKE chapter. Approximately 85 chapter members and alumni attended a reception at the Pub II, tours of the new chapter house, and a dinner.

No undergraduate fraternity chapter can be strong without great alumni support, and a chapter's alumni cannot ensure the survival of the chapter long term without assisting strong undergraduate members. Illinois State's TKE chapter is proud to have both.

Editors note: Roy Taylor '93 is a TKE alum, who served as chair of the TKE reunion committee.



Alumni and members of TKE gathered last fall at the campus house purchased by proud alums.

30s

Doris (LaMaster) Mandeville '33 is retired and resides in Winnebago.

40s

Corliss Norton '47 worked 15 years as a high school teacher and coach, and was Central Community Unit #4 superintendent for 17 years before retiring. He and his wife, Irene, maintain residences in Clifton and Scottsdale, Arizona.

Joe L. French '49, M.S. '50, is professor emeritus at Penn State. He was a keynote speaker at the 75th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association. He resides in State College, Pennsylvania.

50s

Marge (Jeckel) Engelman '52 writes materials to aid older adults in keeping their minds active. Her recent books are *Whole Brain Workouts and Your Amazing Brain and How It Works*. Her husband, **Ken-neth '53**, was honored at the Wisconsin United Methodist Church Conference for serving as a member of the clergy for 60 years. They reside in Madison, Wisconsin.

Rosamond (Lavelly) Flynn '53 is a retired elementary school principal. She resides in Somerset, New Jersey.

Eleanor (Bennett) McMurrin '59 volunteers in North Chicago's elementary schools, working with struggling readers in the primary grades. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Lake Forest.

George J. Yard '59 has coauthored the second edition of *Teaching Learners Who Struggle with Mathematics*. Yard is associate professor emeritus with the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He resides in Houston, Texas.

60s

Bonnie L. (Martin) Simms '62 and her husband, **Lyle D. Jensen '61**, have retired from Villa Park School District. Simms is a volunteer environmental activist, and Jensen is an artist. They reside in North Carolina, and winter in Florida.

Arlita (Warrick) Harris '65 retired as library director at Southern Nazarene University. She and her husband, Irwin, reside in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Carl Quertermus '65, M.S. '67, retired after 33 years as faculty from the University of West Geor-

gia, where he is a part-time biology professor. He is also a part-time environmental consultant. Active in fishing, he has been a member of the Georgia Wildlife Federation for 15 years. He has two daughters and three grandchildren. He resides in Villa Rica, Georgia.

Donald J. Snyder '66 taught, did social work, and spent 19 years with the U.S. Postal Service in Chicago. He is semiretired, and resides in Bridgeview.

Geri (White) Finley Winkler '66 has taught sewing and knitting. She has worked with a special education organization in St. Michaels, Arizona. She resides in La Rose.

George Robinson '67 worked as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, as well as an educator in the Illinois Department of Corrections. He is retired and resides in Oglesby.

Dennis Bowman '68 served 30 years with the Illinois State police. He has been an associate professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University the past decade. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Petersburg.

Bernadette D. (Lindstrom) Schroeter '69 is retired. She and her husband, Walter, reside in Moab, Utah. They have two children, and two grandchildren.

70s

Blaine Sampson '70 is CEO of Blue Ocean Consulting in Lawrence, Kansas. He has been appointed to the University of Kansas Business School Council of Advisors. He resides in Lawrence, Kansas.

Brian G. Tesar '70 worked in the Illinois Department of Corrections as a GED corrections educator before retiring. He and his wife, Roxanne, reside in Marion.

Bill Cummings '71, M.S. '78, has retired after teaching for 30 years. He is a professor emeritus and visiting professor at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, where he resides with his wife, Jennie.

Lawrence Witek '71 retired from the United Parcel Service. He is a certified fitness trainer, a specialist in performance nutrition, and specialist in fitness for older adults. He lectures and works part-time at the Fitness Zone Health Club. He resides in Rockton.

Tracy C. Orr '72 is an assistant professor of anatomy/physiology at the College of the Mainland in

Share your good news

Alumni are encouraged to share news on job changes, promotions, special honors, retirements, marriages, births, and adoptions. Information will be published in the earliest possible issue, based on the order information is received and as space permits. Information submitted more than one year following the event will not be published. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

There are three easy ways to submit your information: 1) Go online to www.alumni.ilstu.edu/news and click on "class notes." Information submitted using this method will also be posted online; 2) E-mail your news to alumni@IllinoisState.edu; or 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by e-mail at alumni@IllinoisState.edu.

Texas City, Texas. He received the college's 2008 Outstanding Instructor of the Year Award. He resides in Texas City.

Pamela J. Rice '72 served as principal of the Adlai E. Stevenson Math and Science Magnet Cluster Elementary School before retiring. She resides in Chicago.

Patrick Winters '72 is president and CEO of Strategic Evaluations and Executive Transitions in Maylene, Alabama. He is the executive director of the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals. He is on the Board of Examiners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which is presented annually by the President of the United States for performance excellence by an organization. He resides in Maylene, Alabama.

Bob N. Wise '72 is a semiretired comic/radio personality with Bob Wise Productions in Decatur. For nearly a decade he worked on the Tom Joiner Morning Show, and as a stand-up comic. His past honors include *Billboard Magazine* Air Personality of the Year and the *Gavin Report* Outstanding Young Man in Broadcasting. His wife, **Vicki S. (Harland) '71, M.S. '75**, is a special education teacher in Decatur, where they reside.

Michael Surma '73, M.S. '78, has worked for 13 years with Henry County Schools in Georgia, including as education lobbyist with the Georgia State Legislature. He is now superintendent of the school system. His wife, **Marygrace '72, M.S. '78**, is the teacher education program coordinator at Clayton State University. They reside in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Joan (Vargovcik) Der '74 is professor of accounting emerita at North Central College in Naperville, where she resides.

Tom Donohue '75, M.A. '77, is retired after teaching 27 years at Bannes School in Tinley Park. He also coached wrestling, football, and baseball. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Mokena.

Lori Goetsch '75, M.S. '77, is the dean of libraries at Kansas State University. She has been elected the vice president and president-elect of the Association of College Research Libraries. She resides in Manhattan, Kansas.

Marylee (Swain) Griffiths '75 has completed a master's degree in educational administration at Emporia State University. She is an early childhood coordinator for Kansas Public Schools in Kansas City, Kansas. She resides in Basehor, Kansas.

Joyce (Webb) Penland '75, M.S. '79, is employed at Bacon Lee and Associates, a charitable resource management company in San Antonio, Texas. She resides there with her husband, Richard.

Ed Marcin '76 is a digital project and public affairs director for Clear Channel Outdoor in Chicago. He resides in Brookfield.

Michael Matznick '76 received the Harold R. Gordon Memorial Award, which recognizes the person of the year within the National Association of Health Underwriters. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mary (Hartzler) Slutz '76, '83, develops materials and tools for faith community nurses. She coordinates the annual Granger Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium, which draws participants internationally. She resides in East Moline.

Lynn (Zipfel) Venhaus '76 is copublisher and owner of the *Republic-Times* in Waterloo. She is active in theatre and community events. She has two sons and resides in Waterloo.

Keith O. Hilton, M.S. '77, is president of INVR Standards/ HHEW, which is an African-American media and education consortium based in California. He is also a columnist, and professor of organizational leadership at Chapman University. He resides in Stockton, California.

Michael Keane '77 is the CFO and senior vice president of Clipper Windpower. He resides in Oak Park, California.

Janice (Johnson) Wilson '77 retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 26 years of service. She is the site director for Communities in Schools in Killeen, Texas. She resides there with her husband, James.

John Davis '78 is the Fleet Reserve Association's director of legislative programs. He testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense regarding the importance of funding healthcare and quality-of-life programs for military families. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Vienna, Virginia.

Don Schaffer '78 is a controller on TTX Company, which is a railcar leasing company in Chicago. His wife, **Barb (Shanker) '78**, is a preschool teacher with St. John of the Cross School in Western Springs. They reside in LaGrange.

Keith Storey '78 has authored *Walking Isn't Everything*, and *The Road Ahead; Transition to Adult Life for*

Persons with Disabilities. He resides in Berkeley, California.

Greg R. Thiel, M.S. '79, is a teleclass facilitator for the Relationship Matters Program for the National MS Society. He is certified as a Family Life Educator by the National Council on Family Relations. He and his wife, GERALYNNE, reside in Littleton, Colorado.

80s

Randy L. Cooper '80 is the vice president and part owner of Williams-Manny, Inc., in Rockford. The company is the largest insurance agency in Northern Illinois. He and his wife, Jean, reside in Rockford.

Warren S. Wilcox '80 is the executive vice president at Visa, Inc. He resides with his family in San Francisco and Carmel, California.

Gregory E. Knoblauch '81 is the president and CEO of Earth Map Solutions, Inc. The company is now part of Monsanto Corporation. He received the NRCC Congressional Medal of Distinction in 2008. He and his wife, Rhonda, reside in Centennial, Colorado.

J. Fred Schouten, M.M. '81, retired after serving 36 years in K-12 education. He is an adjunct at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. He is the interim principal for Oak Lawn Community High School. He and his wife, Debra, reside in Manteo. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Dennis N. Vaughn '81, M.A. '83, wrote and directed the film *The City Was Electric*, which tells the story of coming to terms with his AIDS diagnosis. He wrote and directed *Mama Medea*. His films *Autumn Blues* and *Techno Lamp* aired on MTV. He and his partner, Mark Petty, reside in San Francisco, California.

Neal West '81 is the vice president and chief accounting officer for Kaiser Aluminum in Foothill Ranch, California. He resides there with his wife, Debbie.

Thomas Erdmann, M.M. '82, is a professor of music at Elon University. He writes jazz CD reviews for the *Monterey County Weekly*. He has had 100 professional music journal articles published, and is completing a series of books on jazz trumpeters. He resides in Burlington, North Carolina.

Brian Rankin '83 is chief general counsel for Comcast in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Soozong, are parents of a son.



Illinois State had a strong representation at the Wolfman Triathlon held last fall at White Lake, Wisconsin. Considered an "adventure triathlon," the event included kayaking, mountain biking, and a trail run. The five alums who tackled the course include, from left, Eric Wickenkamp '01, Nick Low '04, Kevin Koeppen '99, Mike Mrachek '02, and Brian Stannis '00.

Robert Zi was born in October of 2008. They reside in Philadelphia.

Ronald South '83 is the vice president of corporate finance for Henry Schein, Inc., which is the largest provider of health care products and services to office-based practitioners in the North American and European markets combined. He and his wife, Nicki, reside in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Paula (Dejmek) Woods '83 is a corporate activities regulator for the U.S. Department of Treasury in Chicago. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Frankfort.

Kathleen Embry '84, M.S. '89, is the associate director of education at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Chicago. She resides in Naperville.

Glenn Gesell '85 is employed by CompuTech Direct in Hoffman Estates. He is a competitor in worldwide Ironman Triathlons.

He has participated in more than 15 competitions to date, including the 2008 October World Triathlon Championship Ironman competition in Kona, Hawaii. His parents, **Joanne (Costabile) '62** and **Roy Gesell '59, M.S. '62**, joined him for the Hawaii event.

Curt M. Horvath '85 was named the Jean Ruggles Romoser Chair of Cancer Research by the Foundation at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, where he is the senior scientist. He is also a professor at Northwestern University in the departments of medicine and biochemistry, molecular biology and

cell biology. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Wilmette.

Sherry Husa '85, M.A. '87, is the president and CEO of Managed Health Services, which is a Wisconsin subsidiary of Centene Corporation. She resides in Plainfield.

Keith Schmitke '85 is a senior loan analyst with Countrywide Home Loans in Chandler, Arizona. He and his wife, Karey, reside in Gilbert, Arizona. They are the parents of six children.

Donn Vucovich '85 is the president for brokerage shared services at Hub International Limited, which is an insurance brokerage company. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Island Lake.

Joanne "Jodie" Panariello Needham '86 is the assistant dean for academic services at The John Marshall Law School. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Lisle.

Steve Robisky '86 completed the executive M.B.A. program at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He resides in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Susan L. (Cappellin) Watson '88 is a registered nurse with Memorial Medical Center in Springfield. She works in the special care nursery and family maternity suites. She resides in Springfield.

Andrew J. Wrobel '88 is a manager with Grant Thornton LLP in Oakbrook Terrace. He and his wife, Dawn, reside in Sugar Grove. They are parents to a daughter.

Bharatt Chowrira, M.S. '89, is the COO of Nektar Therapeutics, and

head of the PEGylation Business Unit. He also serves as chairman of Nektar India Pvt., Ltd. He and his wife, Pramitha, reside in San Francisco, California.

Tom Culver '89 is the director of orchestras for Public School District 102 in LaGrange Park. He and his wife, Kendra, reside in Country-side. They have three children.

Jim Durkin '89, M.S. '91, has published a second novel titled *The Call of Angels*. He resides in Woodridge.

Ken Kukla '89, M.S. '95, is a manager of rehabilitation services at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He completed his M.B.A. at Cardinal Stritch University. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Allen Shreffler '89 is a professor of military science at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi. He was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service while assigned to the United States Southern Command, Miami, Florida. He and his wife, Maritza, reside in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Florestee Vance-Buss '89 has retired from the Chicago Public Schools. She and her husband, John, reside in Calumet City.

90s

Gregory C. Budds '90, '96, M.M. '98, is a professor of guitar at Louisiana Tech University. He resides with his wife, Monique, in Laredo, Texas.

Keven D. Forney '90, Ph.D. '07, is the superintendent of schools for Oakwood CUSD 76 in Fithian. He and his wife, Penny, reside in Oakwood.

Joe Rives, M.S. '90, Ph.D. '94, is vice president of Quad Cities, Planning and Technology at Western Illinois University. He resides in Macomb.

Cathryn (Millhouse) Flones '91 completed a doctorate in curriculum and instruction at Aurora University. She teaches middle school life science at Westfield Community School in Algonquin. She resides in South Elgin.

Lisa R. Lawrence '91, M.S. '01, teaches sixth grade with Pekin District 108. She was chosen as one of *Interbusiness Issues*'s "40 Leaders Under 40" in 2008, an honor that recognizes her efforts to bridge her classroom and the community. She resides in Pekin.

Richard Wirtz '91, M.B.A. '05, M.S. '07, is staff accountant with Caterpillar in East Peoria. He and his wife, Marina, reside in Morton.

Linda (Knouse) Batten '92 is an attorney with Kroger, Gardis & Regas, LLP. She and her husband, **Michael '98, '00**, reside in Indianapolis.

Michelle (Krol) Bruzan '92, M.S. '97, is employed by the Gwinnett County Public Schools. Her husband, **Kevin '93**, is a computer consultant with Perot Systems. They have one son and reside in Sugar Hill, Georgia.

Malinda A. (McCain) Dale, M.S. '92, is a psychologist. She and her husband, Brent, reside in Leesburg, Georgia. They are the parents of four children.

Glen Gribac '92 completed his M.B.A. from Roosevelt University, and received master's certification from George Washington University. He is a project management professional with Motorola. He and his wife, Michelle, were married in May of 2008. They reside in Streamwood.

Kwasi Sam '92 is a corporate industrial hygienist with American Airlines, AMR Inc., in Fort Worth, Texas. He resides in Irving, Texas.

Lisa M. Smith '92 is a supervisor of registration and scheduling at American Intercontinental University in Atlanta, Georgia. She owns a part-time Internet business specializing in health and wellness. She resides in Atlanta.

Jeffrey S. Carver '93, Ed.D. '06, is an assistant professor of secondary science education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction/Literacy Studies in the College of Human Resources and Education at West Virginia University. He and his wife, Angela, reside in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Peter C. Cavanagh '93 has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Resident Circuit Judge with the Sangamon County 7th Judicial Circuit. He and his wife, Kristin, are the parents of three children. They reside in Springfield.

Marta (Schweneker) Temmer '93 is an online marketing manager for OptionsHouse, Inc., in Chicago. Her husband, **Stephen '91**, is an independent broker for Clearing Services in Hoffman Estates. They reside in Naperville.

Brett Hilkemann '94 works at Con-Tech Lighting in Northbrook. He started the Supermarket Sales Channel. He and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of a son. They reside in Geneva.

Jon Mitze '94 is a total loss claim representative for State Farm Insurance

Companies in Bloomington. He and his wife, Abbe, are parents of two sons. They reside in Monticello.

Greg Morris '94 is general manager of the North American oilseed processing business at Archer Daniels Midland Co., in Decatur.

her husband, Bobby, reside in Peoria. They are parents of two daughters.

Teresa K. (Greiner) Moore '95 works at CEFU in Peoria. Her husband, **Chip '93**, is a chemical operator for PMP Fermentation in Peoria. They



Sharon (Van Alstine) Herdina '68 has fond memories of her first year at Illinois State. It was in 1964 as a freshman that she met seven women who became lifelong friends. All graduated in 1968. The eight have planned reunions through the years, returning to fourth floor Colby Hall to see their old rooms. They also travel together. Members of the group who gathered last summer in South Carolina include, from left, Arlene (Klockenga) Bratton, Indiana; Sharon (Van Alstine) Herdina, California; Barbara (Carley) McCullough, West Virginia; Jane (Gschwendtner) Whiteman, Illinois; and Margaret (Mitchell) Boutwell, Georgia. Friends unable to attend were Carol (Marucci) Preston, Illinois; Elma (Wienen) Bok, Arizona; and Judy (Reinacher) Sherrell, Minnesota.

Dane L. Morton '94 is a financial center manager with Citibank in San Francisco, California. He resides there with his wife, Dana.

Hans Muehsler '94, '96, is a physics teacher with Naperville CUSD 203. He teaches honors physics, is head coach of the scholastic bowl, and is the science bowl coach. He resides in Naperville.

Rhonda (Ossola) Parker '94 is the director of development for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception in West Peoria. She and

are parents to three children, and reside in Chillicothe.

Brian Thouvenot '95 is the executive producer for KMOV-TV in St. Louis, Missouri. He previously worked for WGAL-TV in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he won three Emmy Awards for best newscast. He and his wife, **Carrie (DiMiceli) '96**, reside in O'Fallon. They have a daughter adopted from China.

John Bayer '96 is a regional delivery manager for The Home Depot. He and his wife, **Erin (Barry) '94**, reside in Aurora.

Support your magazine

The cost of publishing and mailing *Illinois State*, the alumni magazine, continues to increase. Your tax-deductible gift of \$25 helps defray mounting costs during difficult budget times. Contributions are appreciated and may be sent to Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, Illinois, 61790-3100.

Shawn Clapp '96 is the Illinois business manager for Asoyia. He and his wife, **Carie (Dryer) '96**, reside in LeRoy.

Nicole Macy-Robertson '96, M.S. '98, is the assistive technology coordinator for Township High School District 211 in Palatine. She and her husband, Keith, are the parents of a daughter. They reside in Batavia.

Christopher Puccini '96 is an environmental protection specialist for the State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in Des Plaines. He and his wife, Jennifer, are parents of a daughter. April Linnea was born in January of 2008. They reside in Chicago.

Steve L. Racey '96 is a preconstruction project manager for Woolems, Inc., in West Palm Beach, Florida. He has a son and resides in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Karrie (Buchheit) Ruestman '96, M.S. '03, is a resource teacher with Unit 5 Schools in Normal. She and her husband, Mark, have two children. They reside in McLean.

Patricia (Vitek) Furlanetto '97 has completed a master's degree in education and leadership. She is an early childhood special education teacher in CUSD 300 in Carpentersville. She has been cited by *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and *Cambridge Who's Who*. She and her husband, John, reside in Streamwood.

Samantha (Davis) Lindenmeyer '97 completed a master's in reading from Northeastern Illinois. She is a reading specialist with the Chicago Public Schools. She and her husband, Jeff, are the parents of a daughter. They reside in Chicago.

David H. Ma '97 is a safety manager with Source TSS LLC in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he resides.

Diane E. (Turgeon) Regalbuto, M.S. '97, is a health and fitness specialist for the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. She received the Presidential Citation for Academic Achievement from the University of Delaware. She and her husband, Anthony, are parents of a son. They reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

Stephanie Robey '97 authored a children's book titled *Can You Just Imagine*. She resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Mike Wallner '97, M.S. '99, and his wife, **Lisa (Ouellette) '97, M.A. '99**, are the parents of a son. Cooper

Daniel was born in July of 2008. They reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jennifer Bizon '98, M.S. '00, has received a Type 73 certificate in school counseling from Loyola University. She resides in Chicago.

Tony Franklin, M.S. '98, is the director of Campus Life Facilities at Clemson University. He is completing a doctorate at Clemson in educational leadership. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Easley, South Carolina.

P.J. Giamanco '98 is the associate principal at Coppell High School in Texas. He resides with his wife, Traci, in Grapevine, Texas.

Donald Gruber '98 is an adjunct professor of education at Millikin University in Decatur. He is president of the 397th Bomb Group Association. He and his wife, Debra, reside in Clinton.

Sarah (Pfeiffer) Clinton '99 is the vice president of risk management for the Bank of America in Chicago. She and her husband, Joseph, are the parents of a son. John Raymond was born in April of 2008. They reside in Oak Park.

Rachel (Bicknell) Ferrero '99 completed a master's degree in secondary education. She is a science teacher. She and her husband, Tony, were married in February of 2008. They reside in Groves, Texas.

Stephanie (West) Hardy '99 is an operations specialist for Microsoft in Downers Grove. She and her husband, Blake, are the parents of two children. Bridget Marie was born in April of 2008. They reside in Aurora.

Heather (Messman) Johnson '99 is a registered nurse working in a pediatric office in Pekin. She and her husband, Darian, are the parents of two sons. Dalton Ray was born in May of 2008. They reside in Green Valley.

Peter Lafferty, M.S. '99, received his M.B.A. from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he is a community coordinator for leadership development. He resides in Philadelphia.

Kelly E. (Covert) Maag '99 is a middle school teacher in Deerfield. Her husband, **Michael C. '00**, is a vice president for a Tinley Park general contractor. They are the parents of a son, John William, who was born in February of 2008. They reside in Oak Forest.

Jennifer (Hanna) Pishotta '99 is a patient services liaison at the Fertility Centers of Illinois in Glenview.

How we met—

Illinois State University connections

It's Redbird Romance Month at Illinois State. Beyond the feature in this issue showcasing individuals who fell in love on campus (see page 8), the University is implementing a special calling effort to alumni couples through the Annual Fund during February. When you receive a call from one of our students, please consider making a gift in memory of the special moments you shared at Illinois State. Join with the hundreds of loving couples who met through the University to make a difference at your alma mater.

She and her husband, Mark, are the parents of three children. Matthew was born in June of 2008. They reside in Crystal Lake.

Jessica L. (Carter) Roe '99, M.B.A. '07, is a finance supervisor with State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in LeRoy. **Martha J. (Martin) Smith '99** is a nurse manager of the neurosurgery intensive care unit at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. She resides in Oak Park. **Stacey (Friedman) Wolfe '99** is a special education teacher with the Niles Township High School District 219. Her husband, **Robert '00**, is an underwriter with Monitor Liability Managers Inc. in Rolling Meadows. They are the parents of two children and reside in Arlington Heights.

Theonita Wright '99 completed a master's degree in social work from Dominican University. She is a social worker with Youth Guidance in Chicago, where she resides.

00s

Heather J. (Henning) DeHart '00, M.S. '02, is a director of public relations, marketing and communications at De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis, Missouri. She and her husband, Roger, reside in St. Charles, Missouri.

Andrew DeLaurentis '00 is a teacher and coach at Marian Catholic High School. He resides in Highland.

Melissa M. Koelper '00 is a middle school teacher with the CCSD #21 in Wheeling, where she resides.

Barbara J. McGrath, Ph.D. '00, is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and professor of English at the University of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico. She authored a poetry collection titled *Seawind Café*. She resides in Hobbs.

Timothy Seppelt '00 has graduated with a doctorate of physical therapy degree from the College of Health Professions at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. He resides in Springfield.

Misti N. (Watterson) Tompkins '00 is a professional recruiter with Carle Clinic Human Resources in Urbana. She and her husband, Ryan, are parents of three children. Reed was born in April of 2008. They reside in Gibson City.

Jeff Waple, Ph. D. '00, is the dean of students for Student Affairs at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Kentucky.

Kara (Schaake) Beyers '01 and her husband, Rich, are parents of two children. Their daughter, Grace, was born in February of 2008. They reside in Hamel.

Jodi L. (Gromos) Hartman '01, M.S. '07, has completed a master's

degree in special education. She is a teacher with Tri-Valley Middle School in Downs. Her husband, **Brian '02**, is an energy analyst with Growmark, Inc., in Bloomington. They are parents of a daughter, Ava Rose, born in March of 2008. They reside in El Paso.

John Kane '01, '04, is completing a master's in education at the University of Illinois. He resides in Aurora.

Alissa S. (Nelson) LaBroscian '01, M.S. '06, and her husband, **Jason '96, M.S. '05**, are the parents of a daughter. Alexandria was born in May of 2008. They reside in Plainfield.

Jennifer Louie, M.M. '01, is the assistant concertmaster for the Ohio Light Opera. She is also a violinist with the Gulf Coast Symphony (Biloxi), Macon Symphony Orchestra, the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra, and the Tupelo Symphony Orchestra. She resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Teresa A. (Wickenhauser) Saxton '01, M.S.N. '03, is an instructional assistant professor of nursing at Illinois State's Mennonite College of Nursing. She and her husband, Douglas, reside in Pontiac.

Tina (Gonzalez) Swanson '01, M.S. '03, is a wellness coordinator for the City of Bloomington, where she resides.

Amanda (Moore) Tucker '01 and her husband, Kevin, were married in May of 2008. They reside in Champaign.

Jennifer D. (Curto) Barker '02 is the MDS/CP coordinator and charge nurse of the Extended Care Unit at Graham Hospital. She and her husband, Jason, were married in October of 2008. Their first son, Ashton Gage, was born in February of 2008. They reside in Pekin.

Jaime (Schwarz) Bond '02 is a registered nurse at the Women's Healthcare Center. She and her husband, Victor, are the parents of two children. Bray Dale was born in May of 2008. They reside in Spring Valley. **Jennifer Koehl, Ph.D. '02**, has been granted tenure as an associate professor of biology at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. She resides in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Kristina (Shindel) Pasma '02 has achieved certified pediatric nurse certification. She is a registered nurse at Children's Hospital of Central California. She and her husband, A.J., are the parents of

a daughter. Payton Jacqueline was born in June of 2008. They reside in Fresno, California.

Justin Russell '02 is a wellness coordinator with Healthways in Joliet. His wife, **Tara (Spitler) '03**, is a teacher in Frankfort. They are the parents of one son and reside in Manhattan.

Amy (Turner) Steingrebe '02 is an interior designer for the hospitality market with MBA Reno Architecture and Design in Reno, Nevada. She resides there with her husband, Jeremy.

Kimberly A. (Cook) Absher '03 is a homemaker. She and her husband, Jonathon, reside in Bethalto.

Norjuan Q. Austin, Ph.D. '03, is an English professor at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, where he resides.

Joseph M. Bergman, M.S. '03, is a chemistry professor at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, and chair of the ICC Chemistry Department. He was awarded the Ruby K. Worner Charitable Trust. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Washington.

Douglas P. Bishop '03, M.S. '03, M.S. '04, obtained Scrum Master Certification, and is a senior project manager with Asurion in Nashville, Tennessee. He resides with his wife, Kelly, in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Michele L. Borynski, M.A. '03, is a psychologist with North Texas State Hospital in Vernon, Texas, where she resides.

Carrie (Kortz) Boyer '03 and her husband, Aaron, reside in Alamogordo, New Mexico. They are the parents of a daughter, Victoria Lynn, who was born in August of 2007.

Jenny Bozarth '03 is a call center representative at Heartland Bank and Trust in Bloomington, where she resides.

Richard C. Brown '03 is a project manager. His wife, **Katherine A. (Behrens) '05**, is a teacher. They reside in Normal.

Sherianne Bryner '03 is a marketing specialist with Walgreen Company in Deerfield. She resides in Chicago.

Stacey E. Buell '03 is an RN, BSN, and occupational health nurse with State Farm Insurance Companies in Charlottesville, Virginia. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Palmyra, Virginia.

Jessica Byrne Butts '03 is a staff therapist and case manager with Adult and Child in Indianapolis. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Greenwood, Indiana.

Pause for applause

International aide

Alice (Killian) Wells '64 is dedicated to making a difference from her home in Phoenix, Arizona. She owns a company and is a consultant for teacher training in schools across the country. Her reach is even more broad as president of the board of directors for Soroptimist. The international volunteer organization works

to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities throughout the world by offering more than \$1 million annually to programs that improve social and economic conditions for females. The problems surrounding women abused by trafficking is one issue Wells will confront during her term.

A novel idea

A journalist for three decades, **Robert Gilbert '72** was so driven to write a romance novel that he spent months scratching out the words on lined paper after ending his night shift. The effort resulted in *Megan's Love*, which was published in 2008. Gilbert's story of a reporter and educator who find each other in the Southwest is made more compelling by a companion CD. Determined to immerse his readers in the lives of his characters, Gilbert wrote and composed the orchestration titled

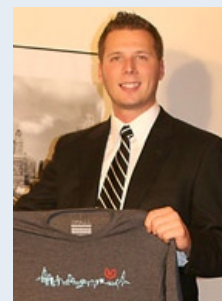
Soft Tears: Megan's Theme to underscore the novel's drama. The story behind the story is online at www.robertlouisgilbert.com.

Illuminating Oprah

Scott Zematis '95 typically works behind the scenes as a lighting director at Harpo Studios. His talent on the job now has him in the spotlight, as Zematis captured an Emmy in 2008 in the Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Direction category. The award for lighting design on the Oprah Winfrey Show was the third Emmy for Zematis, who won for Best Lighting Direction in daytime television in 2007 and 2006. A graduate of Illinois State's School of Theatre, Zematis uses his talents beyond television as well, serving as the artistic associate/lighting designer at Strawdog Theatre Company in Chicago.

Wear in Chicago?

"Conceived in passion. Born in Chicago. Raised on credit card debt." The tagline for the company founded by **Josh Galecki '05** summarizes his journey from Illinois State student to president of a clothing venture called Loop Apparel. Started with a team of twenty-something pals, Loop Apparel is now in its fourth year of stitching the Windy City's essence. Some aspect of Chicago is on every clothing item—from the city's distinct skyline to riding on the L. The look has caught the eye of Chicago fashion critics, and has an underground following that continues to grow online at www.loopapparel.com.



An Illinois State legacy

Linda Thomas '73 has a dual connection to Illinois State through family and work. She began as a student employee, and still recalls a guard at the flagpole and at the switchboard where she worked following the Kent State incident during the Vietnam War.

"I grew up in Bloomington, and I had a good opinion of Illinois State University even though it seemed large and unfamiliar," said Linda, who works in the Office of Planning and Institutional Research.

"My affection for Illinois State has only grown. It provides a solid education—past, present, and future—for me and my family, and has been a good employer too for the past 35 years."



Linda Thomas, seated, is part of a strong Illinois State family that includes, from left, Todd Thomas, Heather (Beall) Thomas, Tom Connor, Carrie Thomas, Fred Thomas III, Christi Fleming, and Deanna Hamilton.

Linda traces her campus connection to an aunt and uncle, Lois (Shakespeare) '33 and Jim Harris '40; and another aunt, Helen (Karloski) Thomas '46. The legacy continued with Linda's three children.

Her son, Fred Thomas III '00, is with Ace-Hi Glass Company in Bloomington. He met his wife Heather (Beall) '99 at Illinois State. Heather is a licensed social worker with the Baby Fold in Normal.

Linda's daughter, Carrie Thomas '02, is an attorney in Bloomington. Carrie participated in many Registered Student Organizations at Illinois State. She recalls the way the campus community drew together following September 11th as one of her fondest student memories.

Like his mother, Todd Thomas '06, is a graduate and employee. Todd works as a computer support specialist/server administrator for the College of Arts and Sciences Information Technology Department.

The family legacy continues, as Linda's niece, nephew, and great-niece are alumni as well. Deanna Hamilton '97, like her aunt Linda, was the first of her immediate family to graduate from college. Three of her maternal cousins have attended Illinois State as well. Deanna is a securities regulatory analyst with State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington.

Linda's nephew, Tom Conner '98, is a partner with Connor & Gallagher Insurance Services, Inc. in Lisle. He and his business partner met after attending Illinois State. Both are members of the Advisory Board for Illinois State's Katie School of Insurance and Financial Services. Great-niece Christi Fleming '00 is with Otter Creek Elementary in Elgin, where she teaches a bilingual class of third and fourth graders.

With such deep campus roots, Linda is a strong Illinois State advocate. "I recommend Illinois State to any and all—including prospective students or parents who call my office for statistics," she said. "I look forward to more memories of Illinois State to come as my great-nieces, great-nephews, and grandchildren seek higher education opportunities."

Nichole L. (Woker) Campbell '03 is a speech language pathologist with Speech and Language Rehabilitation Services in Bloomington. She resides in Morton with her husband, Jayson.

Jorie Colbert '03, M.S. '05, is a research associate with the Utah System of Higher Education, Office of the Commissioner. She completed her Ph.D. in educational psychology at the University of Utah. She resides in Salt Lake City.

Chase Crabtree '03 is a Military Police Officer in the Army. He has served in Afghanistan, and was stationed in Italy for three years. He and his wife, **Sarah (Bucher) '03**, have both completed master's degrees. They are the parents of a son, and she is a stay-at-home mom. They reside in Waynesville, Missouri.

Amit Dass '03 is a functional manager with EDS. He and his wife reside in Salem, Oregon.

Keri (Herron) DeCock '03 is a Title I/Reading Improvement teacher at Hampton Elementary School in Hampton. She resides in Colona with her husband, Christopher.

Josh DeLong '03 is the dean of students at Pontiac Junior High School. He resides in Dwight.

Holly Marie DeMark '03 is a project manager at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She is completing her master's degree in public policy and administration at Northwestern University. She resides in Chicago.

Laura (Segerlin) Denos '03 is an environmental health and safety manager with General Electric in Bloomington. She resides there with her husband, Jason.

Benjamin Dittmar '03 is a systems analyst for State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington. He is a recipient of State Farm's Special Effort Award. He and his wife, Krysta, are the parents of a daughter. They reside in Normal.

Jennifer Dorton-Does '03 works in the accounting office of Bill Walsh Automotive Group in Ottawa. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Ogelsby.

Jennifer Dreyer '03, M.S. '05, is a residence life coordinator at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, where she resides.

Jamie L. Duke '03 is a plastics broker with Mervis Industries, Inc., in Danville. He resides in Henry.

Jennifer R. (Loveall) Edgecombe '03 is an agricultural literacy coordina-

tor and director of information with Macon County Farm Bureau in Decatur. She and her husband, Erik, reside in Oreana.

Maria (Klopfenstein) Emch '03 is a business co-owner of Emch Fund-raising, LLC in Bucyrus, Kansas. She resides there with her husband, Brandon.

Thomas M. Emery '03 is sheriff of McLean County. His wife, **Becky Carr-Emery '81**, is employed at Heartland Community College. They reside in Towanda.

Bryan Enneking '03 is a systems developer with Greenstar North America in Normal. He resides there with his wife, Naomi.

Cora B. Esela '03 is a designer with Resource One in Springfield, where she resides.

Matthew E. Fairbanks '03 is a youth athletic program manager with Lombard Park District. He completed a master's degree at Indiana State University in recreation and sport management. His wife, **Colleen M. (Kendrick) '01**, is a doctor. They reside in Elmhurst.

Melanie Farrell '03 is an elementary teacher with Pinellas County Schools in Largo, Florida. She resides in Pinellas Park, Florida.

Andrew D. Feucht '03, M.S. '05, is a software developer/supporter with Vertical Software, Inc. His wife, **Brooke (Baurer) '03**, is a planning specialist with State Farm Insurance Companies. They reside in Normal.

Matthew Feuerborn '03, M.S. '05, is chair of the industry and technology department at Willowbrook High School of Villa Park. He teaches automotive service and drafting classes, and has been named the DAOES Tech Prep Advocate of the Year. He and his wife, Allison, reside in Lisle.

David B. Gapinski '03 is an adult probation officer with the 13th Judicial Circuit in Ottawa. He resides in Spring Valley.

Luke Gault '03 is a probation officer with the Champaign County Probation and Court Services. He resides in Urbana.

Amanda J. Geiseman '03 is a reading interventionist with the Wentzville School District in Wentzville. She resides in Elsberry.

Stacie (Rapp) Gentry '03 is a promotions manager with KMOX Radio in St. Louis. She and her husband, Justin, were married in November of 2007. They reside in Florissant, Missouri.

Barry Gerth '03 is a Web site manager with Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling, where he resides.

Joseph Goff '03 is a restaurant manager with Selveys Busy Corner in Goodfield, where he resides.

Erica Graves '03 is a sourcing and inventory leader with Gexpro in Denver, Colorado, where she resides.

Brian Gustafson, M.F.A. '03, is an assistant professor with New Jersey City University in Jersey City, where he resides.

Kurt Haas '03 is an assistant superintendent of streets and sewers with the City of Bloomington Public Service Department. His wife,

Lisa (Stith) '86, is a CPA at Illinois State. They reside in Bloomington.

Stacy (Meyers) Haas '03 is a speech-language pathologist with Easter Seals in Bloomington. Her husband, **Bruce Haas '92**, is a self-

received the SEAPCO-EA, IEA-NEA 2007 Silver Apple for service to her local union. She resides in Washington.

Lauren Ingersoll '03 is a teacher of the visually impaired with Evanston/Skokie District 65. During a year's leave she completed work with North Coastal Consortium for Special Education in San Marcos, California. She resides in Roselle.

Jeremy K. Johnson '03 is the owner of JJ's Pub On Main, Inc., in Ottawa. His wife, **Gayle A. Gunderson-Johnson '02**, is a reading specialist with Ottawa Elementary District 141 in Ottawa, where they reside.

Jason P. Joyner '03 is a business education teacher with the Rockford School District. His wife, **Nicole (Horstman) '01**, is a guidance counselor in the same district. They reside in Rockford.

Jeanette Koprowski '03 is a deputy clerk with the U. S. Court of



Illinois State spirit is proudly on display at every Chicago White Sox game, as three alums fly the Redbird flag while tailgating. From left, Malcolm Archer '98, Bill August '97, and Mike Schmidt '96 have "spread the red" at the baseball games since 2000. The trio encourages other Illinois State alums who stop by to show campus pride by raising a Redbird flag at U.S. Cellular Field.

employed HVAC representative. They reside in Normal.

Megan (Dammann) Hendrickx '03 is a high school special education teacher. Her husband, **Brian '02**, is a carpenter. They reside in Round Lake.

V. Diana (Jackson) Holderfield '03 is a self-employed data analyst. She and her husband, Greg, reside in Ransom.

Rebecca R. (Kimple) Howard '03, M.S. '07, is a teacher with SEAPCO in Bartonville. She is a National Board Certified Teacher. She

Appeals in Chicago. She resides in Brookfield.

Autumn Laube '03 is a marketing business analyst with COUNTRY Financial in Bloomington, where she resides.

Jamie Leffelman '03 is a communication analyst with COUNTRY Financial in Bloomington. She is president of the Bloomington/Normal chapter of the Association for Women in Communication. She resides in Bloomington.

Erin E. (Robinson) Lockwood '03 is a community development coordinator and program delivery coordinator with Girls Scouts of Central Illinois in Springfield. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Girard.

Jon Luthe '03 works with the claims department at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington, where he resides.

Aaron Mallehan '03 is a campus staff member with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. His wife,

Jenny (McCain) '03, is an assistant manager at Flattop Grille in Normal, where they reside.

Anna (Deichman) Mancuso '03 is a teacher at Nettelhorst Elementary in Chicago. Her husband, **Adam '04**, is an applications administrator with Spencer Stuart. They reside in Chicago.

Joseph Marretta '03 is a senior analyst with U.S. Airways in Tempe, Arizona. His wife, **Victoria (Pignatiello) '04**, is a product analyst with CVS/Caremark in Scottsdale, Arizona. They reside in Mesa, Arizona.

Dr. Dennis "Lantz" McCrery Jr. '03 graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2008. He is completing a surgi-

cal residency at Hershey Medical Center and Pennsylvania State University in Hershey. He and his wife, Amy, are parents of two children.

Nathan T. McGee '03 is a sales representative for Syngenta-Golden Harvest Seeds. He resides in Catlin.

Jennifer McNichols '03 is an immigration enforcement agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Springfield, Missouri, where she resides.

Eric Mill '03 is a fleet equipment analyst for Ameren Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri, where he resides.

Jana B. Miller '03 is a human resources and office manager with Endeavor Trading, LLC, in Chicago, where she resides.

Shandy Moore-Adams '03 is a middle school science teacher with Woodlawn Middle School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She resides there with her husband, Kenneth.

Tiffany Murphy '03 is an associate marketing manager with Bright Now Dental, Inc., in Santa Ana, California. She resides in Huntington Beach, California.

David Necessary '03 is a kitchen design consultant for Home Depot in Normal. He resides in Heyworth.

Andrea Neubauer '03 is a staff attorney for the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation in Alton. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Kristen Niemiera '03 is a teacher in District 126 in Zion. She resides in Lake Villa.

Tiffany O'Conner '03 is a special education teacher for Hawaii's Department of Education in Waipahu, Hawaii. She resides in Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

Cathryn Ooro '03, M.S. '06, is a statistician with IMS Health. She resides in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

Julie (Hynek) Owen '03 is a procurement analyst with CB&I in Plainfield. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Crestwood.

Delsin Padavil '03 is an account representative for Infogix in Naperville, where he resides.

Julie Pascoe '03 is an outpatient therapist for the Institute for Human Resources in Pontiac. She resides in Hudson.

Matthew Patchak '03 is an entrepreneur who has started and owns various corporations. He resides in Orland Park.

Astra (Lavezzi) Patrick, M.B.A. '03, is the director of quality management for ICM, Inc., in Colwich, Kansas. She and her husband, Lee, are parents to one daughter. They reside in Wichita, Kansas.

Tiffany M. Peterson '03 is an account manager for Volt Services Group in Schaumburg. She resides in Lake in the Hills.

Robert "Bo" Phillips '03 is a physical education teacher at Salt Creek Elementary School in Elk Grove Village. He resides with **Jen Jepson '99** in Chicago. She is a marketing analyst.

Ben Piper '03, M.S. '05, is the coordinator of intramural sports and facility reservations at the University of Texas at Dallas. He resides in Dallas.

Valerie Powell '03 holds a clerical position with the Illinois Department of Human Services in Peoria. She resides in Washington.

Heather (Wise) Pruett '03 is a pre-kindergarten teacher in Carlyle School District #1. Her husband, **Travis '02**, is a project engineer with



State Farm Insurance Companies Executive Vice President Willie Brown '73, left, joined with President Al Bowman at a special reception last fall for alumni employed by State Farm. With more than 4,000 alumni working for the company, State Farm is one of the largest employers of Illinois State graduates.

Poettker Construction in Breese. They reside in Aviston.

Adam Rechkemmer '03 is a level II support staff member with Medical Staffing Network in Warrenville. He and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Oswego.

Mary (Sallee) Renollet, M.S. '03, is a title 1 reading teacher with Unit 5 Schools in Normal, where she resides.

Ryan Richardson '03 is a daily operations and special projects manager for Richardson Farms in Spring Grove, which has 90,000 Christmas trees and hosts 50,000 visitors to the world's largest corn maze. He resides in Spring Grove.

Arica J. (Moore) Rock '03 is an audiologist with Bloomington-Normal Audiology. She and her husband, Jody, are parents of one daughter. They reside in Cullom.

Erin Saxton '03 is a special education teacher for SASED in Girard, where she resides.

Eric Schlunz '03 is a retail manager with Gamestop in Joliet. His wife, **Dena (Chess) '04**, is an analyst with Joliet Junior College. They reside in Shorewood.

Todd Schroeder '03 is a treasury associate with JP Morgan Chase. He resides in Chicago.

Samuel G. Schultz '03 is in sales with James Hardie Building Prod-

Support our troops

Thank you to the individuals listed below for their service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Names will be published as they are received.

Submit information to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@ilstu.edu or by mail at Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

Major Tracey (DeHart) Collins '93, M.S. '97

Illinois Army National Guard

Afghanistan

Spec. Kimmerly T. Thiel '08

U.S. Army



ucts, Inc., in Mission Viejo, California. He resides in San Diego.

Christine (Vallera) Simmons '03 is a sales representative for Pontiac R.V. She and her husband, Donnie, reside in Rutland.

Olivia Sims '03 is a case manager with Alternatives for the Older Adults in Spring Valley. She resides in Princeton.

Kimberly Smith '03 teaches third grade in Coal City Unit District #1. She resides in Coal City.

John Snowden '03 is a dispatch operator with the City of Bloomington. He resides in Bloomington.

Nicole (Phillips) Sprinkel '03 is serving as a missionary with her husband, Jason, in Nairobi, Kenya. He pastors a church and teaches at an international school. They are the parents of two children.

Cassidy (Klimkewicz) Stombaugh '03 is a high school family and consumer science and health teacher at Iberia High School in Missouri. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Kaiser, Missouri.

Tracey Supan '03 is a security site manager for Levy Security Corp., in Chicago. She resides in Yorkville.

Sarah Thoennes '03 is a life insurance underwriter for State Farm Insurance Companies. She resides in Greeley, Colorado.

Ashleigh (Mason) Thrasher '03 works in the City of Chesapeake's criminal investigations department. She is completing Microsoft certification and serves as president of the Family Readiness Support Group. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Pamela Tintori '03, '07, is a substitute teacher with the Chatham Glenwood School District. She resides in Rochester.

Sonnet Treptow '03 is a photojournalist for WFMY in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she resides.

Keith Vancil '03 is a mortgage loan originator for the First National Bank of Ottawa. He resides in Ottawa.

Aaron Van Dyke '03 is a manager support specialist for the Social Security Administration in Litchfield. He and his wife, Katie, reside in Springfield.

Jason D. Waddell, M.M., '03, directs the high school concert, marching, jazz, and pep bands, as well as middle school concert, jazz, and pep bands for AO CUSD #1 in Argenta. He is completing a doctor-

ate degree. His wife, **Rebecca A. (Culp) '01**, is a banker with Regions Bank and an educator at Richland Community College. They reside in Decatur.

Kathleen Webster '03 is a client relations representative within the Office of Financial Aid at Illinois State. She resides in Bloomington.

Laura Wozniak '03 is a special education teacher at Oak Ridge School in Palos Hills. She resides in Orland Park.

Kamesh Addala '04 is a staff accountant with Kirkby Phelan and Associates in Bloomington. He resides in Carol Stream.

Eric Alzafari '04 completed a master's degree in publication administration from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, where he resides. He worked on the campaign staff for a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

Nicole M. Berg '04 works in Caterpillar's customer interaction center in Peoria. She resides in East Peoria.

Dr. Adam D. Hall '04 graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2008. He is completing an orthopedic surgery residency at Fort Wayne Medical Education Program in Indiana. He and his wife, Rachel, reside in Fort Wayne.

Stephanie A. (Holden) Hamood, M.S., '04, is a guest service coordinator with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis. She and her husband, Jarrett, reside in Lebanon, Indiana.

Corrinne L. (Lydigsen) Wilson '04 is an accountant for Sulaski and Webb, CPAs, in Bloomington. Her husband, **Bradley '05**, is an IT analyst with Wells Fargo in Lincoln, where they reside.

Matthew Schilling Bryant '05 is a high school social studies teacher in Effingham. He and his wife, Erica, were married in May of 2008. They reside in Effingham.

Janine M. Hines '05 is a human resources assistant for the Fox Valley Park District. She is mother to a son, Zachary Gabriel, who was born in May of 2008. She resides in Aurora.

Leigh Ann Singer Martic '05 has completed a master's degree in flute from the University of Nebraska. She is a band director and music teacher at Wilson Junior High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She also teaches flute



Lois (McCreight) Wehner '62 of Illinois, *left*, and Pat (Harland) Edquist '62 of Missouri met as sophomores living in Fell Hall in 1959. Their last two years at Illinois State were spent as roommates at Walker Hall. Their friendship has remained strong over time despite distance, with frequent visits and regular correspondence. Both look forward to becoming members of Illinois State's Half Century Club.

and saxophone at Iowa Western Community College. She resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Lisa Sweas '05, M.S. '07, is an emergency crisis intervention therapist for the McLean County Center for Human Services in Bloomington. Her fiancé, **Matt Hurley '06**, is a teacher at Olympia High School. They reside in Hudson.

Lindsey Yonker '05 is a wholesale correspondent services representative for Mortgage Services III. She resides in Bloomington.

Christina Brown '06 is a preschool special education teacher for the Highland School District in Burien, Washington. She resides in Seattle, Washington.

Don Cisco III '06 is an engineering technician overseeing civil projects for the City of Decatur. He resides in Oreana.

Heidi L. Digby '06 is a high school math teacher for Unit 5 Schools in Normal. She and her husband, Jacob, were married in June of 2008. They reside in Morton.

Dolores A. Lozano '06 is an elementary education bilingual program teacher with North School in the Waukegan Public Schools. She resides in Waukegan.

Stephanie McKemie '06 is a human resources specialist with Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield, where she resides.

Nathaniel Nutter '06 is a student research assistant at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he resides.

Robert J. Powell, M.B.A. '06, is the vice president of human resources for Wesco International in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he resides.

Christina Schmidt '06 is a biology instructor at Henry-Senachwine CUSD #5 in Henry. She resides in Germantown Hills.

Emily J. (Burg) Andris '07 is a special education teacher with Unit 5 Schools in Normal. Her husband, **Jason '03**, is employed by State Farm Insurance Companies. They reside in Normal.

Bonnie Asay '07 is a high school English teacher at Durand High School. She resides in Osco.

James Blake '07 is a corporate account representative for Bridge-stone. He resides in Plainfield.

Christian Borowski '07 is a network engineer for Comptia. He resides in Prospect Heights.

Sean Buchanan '07 is a senior collections analyst for Uline Shipping Supplies in Waukegan. He resides in Antioch.

Brenda M. Cain '07 is a rental help desk analyst for Enterprise Rent A Car in Clayton, Missouri, where she resides.

Karen Carlson '07 is a youth counselor for Maryhurst in Louisville, Kentucky, where she resides.

Ramya P. Chandrasheker '07 is a marketing and research graduate assistant at Illinois State. She resides in Normal.

Anthony Chervinko '07 is a self-employed real estate investor. He resides in Chicago.

Vincent Cima '07 is an IT analyst with AT&T. He resides in Hoffman Estates.

Melody Clark '07 is a middle school math teacher for the Chicago Public Schools at the May Community Academy. She resides in Chicago.

Ryan S. Clasey '07 is completing a master's degree at Northern Illinois University. He resides in Champaign.

Jori L. Cloud '07 is a chiropractic technician for Primary Care Chiropractic. She resides in Wood Dale.

Courtney Cobb '07 is a home accessories coordinator for Pottery Barn. She resides in Tinley Park.

Chris Coffey '07 is a physical education and drivers education teacher for Unit 5 Schools in Normal. He resides in Lexington.

Cara Cooper '07 is in sales with Cooper Home Furnishings in Plano, where she resides.

Valerie Csiszer '07 is a graduate student at East Tennessee State

University in Johnson City, Tennessee. She is also a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the women's soccer team.

Adriane Davis '07 is a speech language pathologist paraprofessional with the Chicago Public Schools. She resides in Chicago.

Kara (Butcher) Davis '07 teaches third grade in Springfield District 186. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Springfield.

Tonya Dennison '07 is a nurse practitioner with ICPR Family Practice in Pekin. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Peoria.

Katie Didway '07 is employed by District 87 in Bloomington. She resides in Galesburg.

Megan Docekal '07 is a graduate assistant and student at Northern Illinois University. She resides in Aurora.

Marie Edwards '07 works as an injury prevention officer and educator with the American Red Cross. She resides in South Pekin.

Bryan Eisenhower '07 is an owner of Lumppland Landscaping, Inc., in Morris. His wife, **Megan (Kielusiak) '07**, is a special education teacher in the Coal City Schools. They reside in Morris.

Hassan Elannani, Ph.D. '07, is the principal of the Charlotte Islamic Academy in Charlotte, North Carolina. He resides there with his wife, Naziha.

Katherine R. Ellis '07 is a community resource specialist for the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago. She resides in Chicago.

Katherine (Ernst) Foley '07 is a teacher at Holy Trinity School in Crawley, United Kingdom, where she and her husband, Ben, reside.

Blake Gadbois '07 is a lab support engineer with Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria. He and his wife, Michele, reside in Eureka.

Carrie Gardner '07 is a document coordinator with Advanced Clinical Research Services in Bannockburn. She resides in Waukegan.

Diana (Ricci) Gillett '07 is employed by the Little Jewels Learning Center in Bloomington. She and her husband, Fred, reside in Normal.

Debra Given '07 is an interior designer with The Lawrence Group in Davidson, North Carolina. She resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Craig Goodman '07 is assistant manager for the Decatur Indoor Sports Center. He resides in Decatur.

Jill Gregory '07 is a high school English teacher in the Unit 5 School District. She resides in Morton.

Jonathon Groeper '07 is a medicinal chemist at Merck in Rahway, New Jersey. His wife, **Nicole (Johnson) '04**, is a stay-at-home mom. They reside in Metuchen, New Jersey.

Amanda M. Dusten Gutierrez '07 is a management trainee with Menards in Washington. She resides in Peoria.

Megan Hannah '07 is a teacher's assistant at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Her husband,

Steven Bernardin '04, is a back-up engineer with Seyfarth-Shaw Law Firm in Mokena, where they reside.

Brian Hanson '07 is a graduate assistant in Western Illinois University's Department of Geography. He resides in Champaign.

Kim (Watts) Hargis '07 is a programmer analyst with COUNTRY Financial in Bloomington. She resides in Towanda.

Elizabeth Hawkins '07 is a middle school special education teacher in the Indian Prairie School District #204. She resides in Batavia.

Anna Henry-Leverenz, M.M. '07, is a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, William, reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Melinda Hilber '07 is a research assistant at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Michelle Hill '07 is a member of the English Department faculty, and director of forensics at Albuquerque Academy. She resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Laura Honigman '07 is an associate geospatial analyst with GeoEye. She resides in St. Charles, Missouri.

Brenda M. (Dodd) Hughes '07 is an interior design intern with SLI Group in Houston, Texas. She and her husband, Joshua, were married in January of 2008. They reside in Houston.

David Ingoldsby '07 works grounds maintenance with the Lake County Forest Preserve in Wauconda. He resides in Grayslake.

Jessica J. Junis '07 is director of development for Bloomington's Midwest Food Bank. She resides in Bloomington.

Lisa Kamps '07 is a high school English teacher with the Yuma Union High School District in Yuma, Arizona, where she resides.

Joseph C. Lane '07 is a membership assistant with CEFCU in Normal. He resides in Eureka.

Christina Lange '07 is a language arts and literature teacher with School District 300 in Carpentersville. She resides in Elgin.

Lisa D. Lee '07 is a substitute teacher with School District U-46 in Elgin, where she resides.

Jason Lied '07 is a renewal specialist with JupiterMedia in Peoria. His wife, **Heather (Dean) '07**, is a self-employed nanny. They reside in Dunlap.

Lindsey Lippert, M.B.A. '07, is employed by State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington. She resides in Morton.

Eric Livingston '07 is a student at Northwestern University, and is a self-employed CAD consultant. He resides in Crystal Lake.

John Wierzbicki '08 is the director of Sports Elites Volleyball Club in Lake Barrington. He resides in Lake Villa.

In memory

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary Vasquez '96 died in September of 2008 in Afghanistan from wounds suffered when the vehicle he was in encountered an improvised explosive device. The 33-year-old School of Theatre alumnus of

Round Lake was a member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group headquartered in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



In memory

Faculty/Staff

Laura L. (Lombard) Addison, Milner Library, 8/08

Howard D. Blount, Facilities Management; 10/07

Thomas G. Ferry, Mathematics; 8/08

David E. Graves, Building Maintenance; 8/08

Maxine B. (Garrels) Hage '76, Menonite College of Nursing; 10/08

Ruth M. Jarrett, Food Services; 10/08

Magnus R. Mehl '72, Facilities Management; 8/08

Allen D. Monroe, Public Safety; 10/08

Marilyn (Provart) Newby, Art; 8/08
E. Wayne Silvey, Residential Life; 8/08

Alumni

30s

Mildred F. (Cunningham) Blaum '32; 8/08

Emma J. (Baker) Flinspach '32, '68; 10/08

Martha (Ragnes) Vogen '32; 7/08

Lucile O. (Stonecipher) Voigts '32; 8/08

Susie E. (Langston) Mees '34; 8/08

Pauline (Lentz) Arnold '36, '67; 9/08

LaVerne D. (Neuhauser) Johnson '37; 9/08

Rowena Swearingen '37, '52; 10/08

Doris R. Brown '38; 11/07

Esther M. Cline '38; 3/07

Jean C. Thomassen Smith '38; 10/08

Idella C. Henkel '39; 11/08

Verna E. Smith '39; 9/08

Paul L. Swearingen '38 '50; 8/08

Phyllis J. Collins '39; 9/06

40s

Carol (Stone) Brundage '40; 8/08

Nordine (Irish) Goller '40; '44; 9/08

Ann L. (Sowder) Johnston '40; 10/08

C. Naomi Estes Mattoon '40; 10/08

Pauline L. Richards '40; 8/08

Warren C. Sperry '40; 8/08

Lenore P. Van Meter '40; 11/08

James E. Hardgrove '41; 9/08

John A. Secord '41; 9/08

Mabel Shiffer '41; 7/08

Oscar Walchirk '41; 9/08

Patricia M. (Bagby) Folta '42; 8/08

Doris Crank '43; 9/08

Margaret B. (Warwick) Fagot '43, M.S. '69; 6/08

Othello W. Laws '45; 9/07

Phyllis R. (Patterson) Hamrick '46; 9/08

Richard B. Shively '46; 10/08

Marjorie Hodel Porter '48; 10/08

Leno S. Pedrotti '49; 8/08

50s

Laverne Changnon '51, M.S. '53; 7/08

Maxine (Lamont) Neubauer '51; 8/08

Verna A. (Petersen) Springer '51; 10/08

Shirley (Furrow) Toole '52, '55; 5/08

Douglas S. Burnett '53, M.S. '56; 9/08

Walter C. Harris, M.S. '54; 9/08

Dori K. Bodenheimer '56; 10/08

Robert W. Leach '57; 2/08

James R. Ping '58; 8/08

60s

Richard M. Goering '61; 9/08

Wayne Huffman '62; 7/08

Fannie M. (Plank) Yutzy '62; 12/07

Glen A. Melton '66; 8/08

Helen (McCallom) Stehlik, M.S. '67; 9/08

Lois J. (Weber) Thayer '67; 8/08

Linda L. (Honnies) Hainline '68; 9/08

Janet L. (Bradburn) Hollenback '68; 7/08

Richard B. Kerns, M.S. '68; 8/08

Carolyn R. (Jud) Leinberger '68; 8/08

Peggy A. (Earles) Hayes '69; 8/08

Samuel J. Heer Sr. '69; 10/08

Carolyn K. (Strack) Munley '69, M.S. '76; 9/08

FAQ on Giving

An IRA gift can benefit you and Illinois State University

A change in federal law has made it easier to make donations using an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Donors who are 70.5 years of age or older may order that all or part of an IRA account be directed to the University as a charitable donation. The gift not only advances Illinois State's mission but creates a personal tax advantage, as none of the distribution is included in the donor's income.

Contact your financial advisor to find out how you can take advantage of revised IRA laws to benefit you and the University. Additional information is available online at www.UniversityAvancement.ilstu.edu/irarollover. Illinois State development officers are also able to help. Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8184 with questions or to request a brochure.

70s

Karen M. (Greene) Proctor '70; 8/08

Samuel W. Anderson '71, M.S. '72; 3/08

Michael R. Busby '71; 5/04

Michael J. Kallister '71; 8/08

Roger L. Ston '71; 8/08

Karen (Dean) Tuggle '71; 8/08

Linda J. Giel '72; 2/08

Melva J. (Moore) Reeve '73; 6/08

Eugene Schinzel '73; 9/08

Mei-Ying Wu, M.S.'73; 7/08

Patricia L. (Rust) Brown '74; 9/08

Michael R. Fein '74; 9/08

Rick Renzelman '74; 9/08

David M. Holmblad '75; 10/08

Kevin L. Ekedahl '77; 9/08

Carolyn "Ann" (Brown) LaFrence '78; 8/08

Maureen L. McFain '78, '79; 9/08

Sherrrie A. (Levinsky) Krug '79; 8/08

Michael Long '79; 10/98

80s

Richard H. Hemmingsen II '82; 8/08

Paul G. Panzica '83; 8/08

Dona J. Lewis '86; 9/08

Stewart M. Wetter '86; 10/08

Kathy A. Kinnmonth-Shafer '87, M.S. '92; 8/08

Sandra L. (Tibbett) Hunter '89; 8/08

90s

Monica Sacco '90; 8/08

Mark J. Krause '91; 9/08

Sylvia K. (Petersen) Barber '93; 9/08

Mary T. Finnegan '95; 7/08

Michael L. Greenslate, M.S. '96; 10/08

00s

Winter (Folks) Wren '02; 9/08

Mackenzie Dietsch '03; 7/08

Luke J. Jones '08; 11/08

AlumniUpdate

The class notes section of the alumni magazine is one of the best ways to stay connected with collegiate friends. Don't miss the opportunity to be included! Use this form to let fellow graduates know your personal and professional news.

Name (including maiden)		Graduation year(s)	
Major(s)		Degree(s)	
Mailing address			
City		State	Zip
Home telephone		E-mail address	
Professional title or position		Employer	
Employer address			
City		State	Zip
Work telephone		Work e-mail address	
Marital status		Spouse's/partner's name (including maiden if Illinois State graduate)	
Spouse's/partner's graduation year (if Illinois State graduate)			
Spouse's/partner's professional title or position		Spouse's/partner's employer	
City		State	Zip
Spouse's/partner's work telephone			

In addition to above, please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births, or memorial information that you would like reported in *Illinois State*. Please report only events that have occurred. Announcements will appear as soon as possible.

Signature (required)

Return to: Illinois State University, Alumni Relations
Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100
Facsimile: (309) 438-8057 • E-mail: alumni@IllinoisState.edu
Online update form: www.alumni.ilstu.edu/myinfo



Scholarship helps student explore world of options

As a Preview orientation leader, Scott Guerrero is asked for advice by incoming freshmen. “Do not limit yourself in what you can do. Always take the opportunities that are afforded to you. There’s so much here,” Guerrero tells them. These are not idle words, as Guerrero came to Illinois State seeking opportunities.

One of six children, Guerrero was the first to go to college. He was awarded a University Scholarship that allowed him to double major in music education and Spanish. Guerrero hopes to become a choral conductor upon graduating in 2010. He specializes in vocals and piano.

“One of my favorite places to be, whether it is in on-campus or in church, is in front of a piano. It is a great way for me to let go of my stresses and enjoy myself,” said Guerrero, who has also experimented with opera under the tutelage of School of Music Assistant Professor Chris Hollingsworth.

Though he does not necessarily envision a career as a professional performer, Guerrero relishes expanding his talents and keeps an open mind. “My dedication to get involved, showcase who I am as a person, and care about people has helped me develop a profile for myself,” he said.

His involvement in campus ministries and the Illinois State Choir has allowed him to tour Ecuador, France, and Spain. “My experiences have been rewarding in every way. In France I have performed in many great venues, such as

the Notre Dame Cathedral, with the Illinois State Concert Choir. Since I have a double major in Spanish, I can go to Spain or Ecuador where it is a primary language and use it as I am learning it,” Guerrero said.

He is also involved in the Music Educators National Conference, Habitat for Humanity, Admissions Ambassador, and University Housing. He is the women’s volleyball student manager, and a member of the men’s club volleyball team.

“Everything I do I try to do to the best of my abilities,” Guerrero said. “If you truly care about the things you participate in and put forth diligent effort, you will obtain the greatest outcome and be the best person you can be.”

More than one life can be changed when you provide financial support that enables a student to complete an education and pursue professional dreams. Make a difference today by contributing to a scholarship. Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8041 or by e-mail at jdhutch@ilstu.edu to find out what you can do. Donations can be made online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/giving.



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Campus Box 8000
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The Last Look



Spread the Red!

Reggie has plenty of help cheering on the University's basketball teams, thanks to the spirited members of Red Alert. The student organization puts Illinois State pride on display at each home game, making Redbird Arena a tough place for opponents.